

CENTURYLINK, INC
Form SC 13G
February 12, 2016

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
ANNUAL FILING

CENTURYLINK, INC.
(NAME OF ISSUER)
COMMON STOCK
(TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES)
156700106
(CUSIP NUMBER)
12/31/2015
(DATE OF EVENT WHICH REQUIRES FILING OF THIS STATEMENT)

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX TO DESIGNATE THE RULE PURSUANT TO WHICH THIS
SCHEDULE IS FILED:

- (X) RULE 13D-1 (B)
- () RULE 13D-1 (C)
- () RULE 13D-1 (D)

*THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL BE FILLED OUT FOR A
REPORTING PERSON'S INITIAL FILING ON THIS FORM WITH RESPECT TO THE
SUBJECT CLASS OF SECURITIES, AND FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENT
CONTAINING INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ALTER THE DISCLOSURES PROVIDED
IN A PRIOR COVER PAGE.

THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL
NOT BE DEEMED TO BE "FILED" FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 18 OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 ("ACT") OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO THE
LIABILITIES OF THAT SECTION OF THE ACT BUT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL
OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT (HOWEVER, SEE THE NOTES).

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON: STATE STREET CORPORATION

I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF THE ABOVE PERSON: 04-2456637

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

NOT APPLICABLE

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

0 SHARES

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

22,960,654

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

0

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

30,545,540

9. AGGREGATED AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

30,545,540*

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

NOT APPLICABLE

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

5.6%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

HC

*22,260,654 SHARES HELD IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES
7,584,886 SHARES AS INVESTMENT MANAGER FOR THE
CENTURYLINK DOLLAR AND SENSE 401(K) PLAN AND THE
CENTURYLINK UNION 401(K) PLAN

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ITEM 1.

- (A) NAME OF ISSUER
CENTURYLINK, INC.
- (B) ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES
100 CENTURYLINK DR
MONROE, LA 71203-2041

ITEM 2.

- (A) NAME OF PERSON FILING

STATE STREET CORPORATION AND ANY OTHER REPORTING PERSON
IDENTIFIED ON THE SECOND PART OF THE COVER PAGES HERETO
- (B) ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IN NONE,
RESIDENCE

STATE STREET FINANCIAL CENTER
ONE LINCOLN STREET
BOSTON, MA 02111
(FOR ALL REPORTING PERSONS)
- (C) CITIZENSHIP: SEE ITEM 4 (CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF
ORGANIZATION) OF COVER PAGES
- (D) TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES

COMMON STOCK
- (E) CUSIP NUMBER:

156700106

ITEM 3.

IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B)
OR (C), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A:

SEE ITEM 12 (TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON) OF THE COVER PAGE
FOR EACH REPORTING PERSON AND THE TABLE BELOW, WHICH EXPLAINS
THE MEANING OF THE TWO LETTER SYMBOLS APPEARING IN ITEM 12 OF
THE COVER PAGES.

| SYMBOL | CATEGORY |
|--------|----------|
|--------|----------|

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BK BANK AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(A) (6) OF THE ACT.
IC INSURANCE COMPANY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3 (A) (19)
OF THE ACT
IC INVESTMENT COMPANY REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 8 OF
THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.
IA AN INVESTMENT ADVISOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE
13D-1(B) (1) (II) (E).
EP AN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR ENDOWMENT FUND IN
ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (F) .
HC A PARENT HOLDING COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON IN
ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (G) .
SA A SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(B)
OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT (12 U.S.C. 1813).
CP A CHURCH PLAN THAT IS EXCLUDED FROM THE DEFINITION OF
AN INVESTMENT COMPANY UNDER SECTION 3(C) (14) OF THE
INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.

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ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP

THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN ROWS 5 THROUGH 11 OF THE COVER PAGE
HERETO FOR EACH OF THE REPORTING PERSONS IS INCORPORATED
HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF CLASS

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH
ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING
COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON

SEE EXHIBIT 1 ATTACHED HERETO

ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMEBERS OF THE GROUP

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION

BY SIGNING BELOW I CERTIFY THAT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
AND BELIEF, THE SECURITIES REFERRED TO ABOVE WERE ACQUIRED AND ARE
HELD IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED AND ARE
NOT HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OR WITH THE EFFECT OF CHANGING OR INFLUENCING
THE CONTROL OF THE ISSUER OF THE SECURITIES AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED AND
ARE NOT HELD IN CONNECTION WITH OR AS A PARTICIPANT IN ANY TRANSACTION
HAVING THAT PURPOSE OR EFFECT.

SIGNATURES

AFTER REASONABLE INQUIRY AND TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE AND

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BELIEF, EACH OF THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT.

12 FEBRUARY 2016
STATE STREET CORPORATION

/S/ SEAN P. NEWTH
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
CHIEF ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND CONTROLLER

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EXHIBIT 1

THE FOLLOWING TABLE LISTS THE IDENTITY AND ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION OF EACH SUBSIDIARY OF STATE STREET CORPORATION, THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY, THAT BENEFICIALLY OWNS THE ISSUER'S COMMON STOCK. PLEASE REFER TO ITEM 3 OF THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE 13G FOR A DESCRIPTION OF EACH OF THE TWO-LETTER SYMBOLS REPRESENTING THE ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION BELOW.

| SUBSIDIARY | ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION |
|--|-----------------------|
| STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY | BK |
| SSGA FUNDS MANAGEMENT, INC. | IA |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS LIMITED | IA |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS, LTD | IA |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS, AUSTRALIA, LIMITED | IA |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS (ASIA) LIMITED | IA |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS (JAPAN) CO., LTD | IA |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS FRANCE S.A. | IA |

NOTE : ALL OF THE LEGAL ENTITIES ABOVE ARE DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUBSIDIARIES OF STATE STREET CORPORATION.

