

## **Qwest CO Tour by dual**

**Fri Feb 17, 2006**

I was just given a tour of a 5E central office. It was amazing! A 30-year veteran showed me the ropes in a not so large office. What a feeling when we first walked in – immaculate, humming, distribution frames to the sky -- needless to say I was smiling.

An overview, to the best of my recollection: A customer places an order with Denver. It goes to Salt Lake where it's distributed. The order gets to the CO and into the hands of the person that handles DS-0 (pronounced dee-ess-oh). On the order are "addresses" - one for originating equipment (OE), the lines going from the frames to the switch, and one for distribution, the lines going from the frames to subscribers. The OE sides of the frames are yellow, the subscriber sides are blue. The important part of the address is three numbers, for example 8-12-9, which designate frame, row and pair. Using a punch tool, the circuit is completed. The technician then uses a "goat," what they call a test set, to call an ANAC and verify completion.

He showed DSL and T1 tie-ins, SMAS (pronounced smazz), which is Switched Maintenance Access System, the batteries and diesel generator, the cable vault, which was UE goodness, and the machines that keep positive air pressure in the cables. I also got to see the terminal where 5E administration is performed, including the rows of beautiful manuals.

There was so much to see, I could've spent all day in there. Thanks to the Qwest veteran for giving up his lunch to give a noob a tour.