

Definitions

Broadband Internet: Broadband is Internet access that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access

Mobile: Mobile Broadband is Internet access that uses cellular telephone infrastructure, accessed in conjunction with devices such as smartphones, tablets or air cards for laptops.

Satellite: Satellite Internet delivers broadband speeds via satellite equipment generally installed on the roof on a home or business, and requires a clear view of the southern sky.

3G – Used to describe a wireless network. Download speeds must be at least 384kbps to be labeled 3G, or third generation wireless technology.

4G – Used to describe the 4th generation of wireless technology. Two fourth generation wireless technologies exists (as of now), LTE and WiMax.

ASDL – Stands for “asymmetric digital subscriber line.” This is the standard line used for DSL internet, and means that the upload and download lines are a different size or bandwidth. Usually the download bandwidth is larger, since download speeds are considered to be more important (for most people) than upload speeds.

Bandwidth – How much data can be transferred at one time; usually measured in Mbps. Often confused with internet speed.

Bandwidth Throttling – Term used to describe an internet service provider narrowing the amount of bandwidth someone receives. For example, if your normal internet speed is 7 Mbps, then your internet service provider might throttle your bandwidth to 3 Mbps.

Broadband – Another term used to describe high speed internet service.

Cable Internet – Cable is a high speed connection that enables you to access the internet. It uses the same type of cable (connection) to access cable TV.

Cloud Storage – Third party servers that are made available for digital (data/file) storage. For example, you can store your family photos and important documents.

Coverage Map – A map that shows you where you can go (or live) and still have access to the internet or a 3G or 4G wireless network. Each internet provider will have a unique coverage map.

Data – A general term to describe content that someone might up/download to their computer or phone via the internet, such as videos, emails, web pages and music.

Data Allowance – The amount of content a person can up/download during a billing cycle. Usually measured in GB or MB.

Data Cap – The maximum amount of data a person can up/download during a billing cycle before having their bandwidth throttled, internet shut off or facing overage fees.

Dial Up – A type of internet connection that uses the phone lines. Dialup is the slowest form of internet access, as well as the cheapest.

Dongle – Another word for USB or stick. More commonly used in European countries.

DSL – A type of internet connection that uses the phone lines to transmit data. DSL came after dialup and was the first high speed internet connection. Speeds top out at 5-7 Mbps.

Facebook – A social network platform where users can connect with friends and family from all over the world.

Fiber Optics – A type of internet connection that is made up of thin glass fibers to transmit data.

FiOS – Verizon's fiber optics internet connection.

FTTH/FTTP – Fiber to the home/ Fiber to the premises.

Gbps – An abbreviation for gigabits per second.

Hotspot – An area where there is a wireless (wi-fi) internet signal.

Internet Service Provider – A company that provides internet access.

ISP – An abbreviation for internet service provider.

Latency – The amount of delay for data to make a round trip. Usually measured in ms (milliseconds) when used when talking about internet connections.

LTE – An abbreviation for long term evolution. A technology used for mobile internet.

MBps – An abbreviation for megabytes per second.

Mbps – An abbreviation for megabits per second.

Modem – A piece of equipment that changes analog waves to digital so that it can display on your computer. A modem connects you to the internet.

Naked DSL – Naked DSL is having an internet connection using DSL, but without having a phone line.

Overage Fees – Fees assessed for exceeding your data allowance or the internet service provider's data cap.

Pay As You Go – A prepaid alternative to buying internet service (instead of a monthly plan).

Peak Usage Time – The time of day when most people are using the internet simultaneously, usually after work.

Ping Rate – Another term to describe latency.

Pinterest – A content sharing service that allows members to “pin” images, videos and other objects to their personal page or pin board, and share that with others.

Router – An optional piece of equipment that sits between your modem and computer that takes the signal and sends it to other computers on your network wirelessly.

SIM Card – An abbreviation for subscriber identity module. Used to identify and authenticate internet and cell phone users.

SMS – An abbreviation for short message service. Another term used for text message.

Tether – To take your cell phone or tablet and turn it into a “hotspot” for your other devices. A way to access the internet with a device that doesn’t have internet access, by connecting it to a device that does.

Twitter – A social media platform where users can follow other users (or be followed) and communicate by creating short snippets no longer than 140 characters long.

USB – An abbreviation for universal serial bus. Used to either store files or connect to the internet.

VoIP – Stands for voice over internet protocol. A way to talk to someone on the phone using a microphone or web camera over the internet.

Wi-Fi – A term used for wireless internet or wireless signal.