

QUICK REFERENCE | Internet Connectivity

KEY TERMS

Bandwidth – the amount of data that can be carried from one point to another over time

Broadband – the label for internet connections that meet a minimum standard for speed.

In 2015 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) set this minimum definition of broadband:

Download speed
25 megabits per second (Mbps)

Upload speed
3 megabits per second (Mbps)

Latency – basically travel time for data. Latent time is the gap between when data is sent and when the source receives confirmation that the data was received.

Mbps – megabit per second. The unit of measurement for bandwidth.

Mb vs. MB – Data storage (i.e. memory on a smartphone) is often measured in megabytes (MB). But for internet connection speeds, a much smaller chunk of data is used as the base unit, the megabit (Mb). (Note the lowercase “b”)

8 megabits (Mb) = 1 megabyte (MB)

Types of internet connections – A few of the most common types of wired internet connections

- Digital subscriber line (DSL) – uses the same copper lines as a traditional land-line phone. Generally not capable of broadband speed.
- Cable modem – uses the same lines that deliver pictures and sound to TVs.
- Fiber optic – data travels via transparent glass fibers about the diameter of a human hair. Its speed far exceeds DSL and cable, and it is also faster than wireless connections.

Broadband Facts	
Fixed broadband consumer disclosure	
Choose Your Service Data Plan for 50Mbps Service Tier	
Monthly charge for month-to-month plan	\$60.00
Monthly charge for 2 year contract plan	\$55.00
Click here for other pricing options , including promotions and options bundled with other services, like cable television and wireless services.	
Other Charges and Terms	
Data included with monthly charge	300GB
Charges for additional data usage – each additional 50GB	\$10.00
Optional modem or gateway lease – Customers may use their own modem or gateway; click here for our policy	\$10.00/month
Other monthly fees	Not Applicable
One-time fees	
Activation fee	\$50.00
Deposit	\$50.00
Installation fee	\$25.00
Early termination fee	\$240.00
Government Taxes and Other Government-Related Fees May Apply: Varies by location	
Other services on network	
Performance - Individual experience may vary	
Typical speed downstream	53 Mbps
Typical speed upstream	6 Mbps
Typical latency	35 milliseconds
Typical packet loss	0.08%
Network Management	
Application-specific network management practices?	Yes
Subscriber-triggered network management practices?	Yes
More details on network management	
Privacy See our privacy policy	
Complaints or Inquiries To contact us: call(123)456-7890 . To submit complaints to the FCC: online(888)225-5322	
Learn more about the terms used on this form and other relevant information at the FCC's website.	

FIND OUT MORE

www.pc.net/glossary
Definitions of common computer & internet terms

www.speedtest.net
Test the speed of your internet connection

www.broadbandnow.com/alabama

or www.broadbandmap.gov
Find broadband providers in your area

Sources

- Kathy Johnson
<http://pc.net/glossary/definition/latency>
<https://opensignal.com/knowledgebase/the-difference-between-megabyte-and-megabit.php>