

Choosing The Internet Technology That's Right For You

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The Internet is a vital part of the rise of the home-based worker. Many companies that operate out of the home simply wouldn't be viable without the vast resources, contacts, and connections that the Internet offers. Telecommuters rely on the services of email, instant chat services, and video conferencing to get their jobs done right and on time. It is very important, then, that the Internet connection you choose for your work-from-home endeavor is best suited to your needs financially, personally, and professionally. Here are some of the Internet connections available along with some of their positives and negatives.

Wireless

Wireless has enjoyed a great deal of heightened popularity over the last couple of years. As more laptops have increased in popularity, more people have begun taking their work with them when they go on vacations or just out for the weekend. Many hotels and motels have recognized this growing need from their clients and have acted accordingly by incorporating wireless technology into their rooms.

Wireless Internet services mean that there is a lot less potential for your connection to be lost when you are working, simply because there is no chord coming out of a wall that is vulnerable to accidents or children. Wireless is also a very fast Internet option, and you can hook up to the Internet from virtually anywhere, including other rooms in your home. Wireless has actually expanded the potential for home businesses to be run from remote areas that would otherwise offer no land line Internet connections. Wireless services have also dropped considerably over the past couple years, and providers are now offering deals on par with those that rocked the DSL service five years ago.

DSL

Short for digital subscriber lines, DSL Internet services are traditionally reliable and faster than phone line services. They do require that a user is within a certain distance of the master equipment, however, so it is not available to everyone. The initial costs of the DSL connection can also be expensive, as you will have to buy a modem or computer. DSL services are transferred over copper lines, which makes the specialty equipment necessary.

Cable

Cable was all the rage a few years ago, when Internet was still largely only available through phone lines and customers would therefore have to put up with a lot of interference on the telephone. Cable also offered a very fast alternative to the phone line, although in areas where it is highly used the speed of the service tends to be compromised. Also, cable lines are more susceptible to going out than phone lines, and seem to take longer to repair. The result is that when the cable is out, so is your Internet. Cable hook-up can also be expensive as there are usually additional charges for every computer that you want to hook up (each requires its own separate line). You may also find that there are more phone lines available in your house than cable lines, and therefore you may have to have more cable hook-ups installed.

ISDN

Integrated Services Digital Network offers very fast transfer of files and documents across a phone

line at a very high speed. High set up costs due to the modification of existing phone lines are one of the negatives in regard to this type of service. You will also find that the service is not provided everywhere. On the upside, this technology allows a lot of simultaneous transmission, so video conferencing and file sharing become easier.

Phone Lines

The original Internet service. Cheaper and more advanced than ever, phone lines are still the most popular way of receiving Internet services for businesses and households alike. Advances in Internet technology have meant that phone line services are now available that transmit data faster and no longer interfere with regular phone service. Most of the old worries about dial-up services have been eliminated by phone companies, and customers need no longer worry about being kicked offline or busy signals during heavy traffic times.