Article Side

The importance of a broadband speed test when deciding on an internet provider

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Computers these days are pretty much capable of anything, well almost anything. They can store music, home videos, and photographs; treasured possessions, the like of which can take a lifetime to acquire. It provides a medium for mass communication across cities and even continents, whilst hosting a never-ending amount of games to occupy oneself with in times of boredom.

Whilst not particularly cheap to buy, the prices of computers are gradually coming down as they become more accepted as a vital and integral part of our daily lives. However, for all of their uses, if the area in which you live does not receive adequate coverage, you may find that the expensive computer you just bought, with all of its features and capabilities, is as of much use to you as an over-sized paperweight.

We've all seen the news headlines, we're all aware of the discrepancy between the broadband speeds advertised by providers and the speed that people actually end up with. Much of the problem comes simply from a lack of real information. It is essential that you conduct a broadband speed test before choosing a computer, that way you can avoid any disappointment and save unnecessary expense.

There are numerous ways that you can test your broadband speed, the simplest of which is by using an online postcode checker, which will allow you to see what speeds you can expect in your area, and compare the best deals around based on this information. Another simple method is offered by some sites, they prompt you to download a file and then will calculate the broadband speed in your area based on how quickly you're able to do this.

The long-term picture for broadband speeds is relatively positive, with the government aiming to make 4G super-fast internet speeds available the majority of households by the year 2014. However, the reality of achieving this may be a little more complex. As the final stage of the digital switchover is completed, and the last of the analogue signals are turned off, this allows more bandwidth to be allocated per customer, therefore in theory, increasing broadband speeds all across the country.

However, those in rural areas are so removed from the physical infrastructure that allows superfast broadband speeds that many are experiencing speeds as slow as under 2Mbps. Many in these so-called 'black-spots', have difficulty in even loading a single page from the internet and considering that computers have become a vital part of the way in which society functions, this is a very serious problem indeed. A significant lack of connectivity like this could even affect house prices.

Until these problems can be rectified, regardless of where you live, and before even considering changing your broadband provider, do a quick online check using the methods mentioned above and see what speeds are, in reality, available in your area.

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If you would like to conduct a a broadband speed test, there are a number of websites that have tools designed to a test your broadband speed. If you would like to know more, Broadband Choices can provide you with further information.

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