

The difference between home and business Internet pricing

When looking for an Internet service, businesses may be shocked to find out that packages bundled just for them are much more expensive than what a home user can expect to pay. Though it may seem 'unfair' at first, taking a closer look at the features of the package pricing will help a business decision-maker know what they're getting, and what they're paying for. There are fundamental differences in the types of connections that a business user would need, as opposed to what a home user would need.

For home-based consumers, higher upload speeds are not much of a concern. Most of the activity on the Internet that takes place in a typical home involves downloading. Sure, music, videos and so on can be downloaded – and that's why it's great to have what the consumer-targeted ISPs call "high speed Internet." It is high speed, but only in one direction. However, if you think about it, every time a user views a page on the World Wide Web, that is downloading. Every time an e-mail is opened, that is downloading. You don't often come across home-users who need to upload large files to a server that often.

For businesses, the story goes the other way. Uploads can be very important to a company that say, runs a virtual private network (VPN), where files are shared among a sea of workers who access a central server daily. In that case, making the files available on the server requires uploading them onto it, which in turn requires high upload speeds...unless a business wants to incur the cost of employees waiting around playing with their thumbs all day as that slow connection finally gets around to doing its job. In other instances, a company Web site may need constant updating. For that, uploads are also necessary. Anytime information is sent out, that is uploading.

That is why home and business Internet packages are priced differently. Home packages focus on download speeds whereas business packages focus on uploads. Sure, in most cases, downloading will always be faster no matter if the package is meant for home or business users. But business packages are more expensive because they have the added feature of higher upload rates included in them already.

There are two types of Internet offerings that can provide equal download and upload speeds. SDSL refers to Symmetrical Digital Subscriber Line. It is basically like ADSL, except that speeds are equal going both ways, hence the word "symmetrical" in its title. Fiber is a very expensive option and involves a type of wiring that needs to be built for a user. It often gives a more direct line to the Internet. Speeds are unbeatable with fiber lines, but the cost does not always outweigh the benefits, especially in remote locations where it is hard to find.

Usually a user does not feel the difference between a fiber connection and an alternative to it, such as Multilink PPPoE. Multilink PPPoE is a type of Internet that combines multiple regular DSL phone lines together to achieve double, triple, or even quadruple the speed of one DSL line alone. This technology competes mainly with business cable offerings, but is faster and also cheaper. Not only that, users do not share lines, as with cable, so that way traffic blockages are not a concern.

Written by Joyce Grace. All rights reserved, no copyright infringements allowed!

When choosing an Internet package, the first thing to consider would be usage. Price should be secondary. A business could not survive on a connection designed for home use. In some cases, home users may feel that what they need is higher uploads also, so they should look into special packaging. It may be that the business section of the Internet industry is their destination for finding the right fit. However, it can be safe to say that the two worlds usually do not mix. What is meant for home users is designed the way it is for a purpose, and likewise with what is meant for business users.