

Broadband or ADSL Information

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There was a recent article in an Australian Personal Computer magazine, that highlighted the main reason why Australians hadn't taken ADSL on board as quickly as the telcos expected - it was never explained properly! Are you missing out?

Broadband of which ADSL (Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line) is only one form has now been around for several years. In short it promised to deliver internet access to the majority of the Australian population up to 15 times faster than your average dial up connection – for almost the same price. As an example, your average (56K) dialup modem for internet access delivers around 40 to 50 K download speed. ADSL starts at 256K! In crude terms that means that ADSL starts at around five times the speed of your 56K modem. Other competitors to Broadband are Cable, and Satellite – in Adelaide though ADSL seems to be the preferred form, certainly for aspiring enterprises.

ADSL is an "always on" solution – similar to a permanent connection.

ADSL does not require an extra phone line for a modem; it uses the same copper cable as the standard voice line (this saves up to \$32 per month line rental);

ADSL modems often include router (albeit limited) functionality – so what? – Well this, when used properly, can increase your security, and greatly reduce the risk of malicious attacks to your system.

You do not have to dial an ISP every time you want to access the Internet, as ADSL is on-line the whole time and can be used even if someone is using the phone to make a call (this saves you over \$10 per month)

A dedicated ADSL modem is required – you cannot use your existing 56K analogue modem. (see pro's)

Reliability, even though now being a minor issue – not to say it achieves military levels of confidence and reliability, but it still provides most aspiring enterprises with the reliability levels required.

As you are "online" – when your ADSL modem is "on" – which can be all the time, you are more susceptible to malicious online attacks (see ADSL modem under Pro's)

Dial up connections are charged by the connection time, and then perhaps download. ADSL is a "semi-permanent" connection – therefore the charging is based on a flat rate – which includes a download allowance. As an example \$89 per month would get you 256K connection with 2000Mb download allowance. If you subtract the cost of the phone line (\$32), then this is more like \$57 per month, which considering the performance, is very good value.

Whilst Telstra, and Optus both provide ADSL services, we have been dealing almost solely with Internode for client ADSL service.

Why? – well not all ADSL services are the same, and it may interest you to know that Internode rates higher than Telstra and Optus for ADSL services (both customer service, and actual carrier service) by those we have spoken to who have tried both.

Still want to know more – have a look at <http://adsl.internode.on.net/>

There you will find info on whether you can get ADSL on your phone services, and rates and service agreements.

If you'd like to talk more about what other benefits are available from ADSL, then call us on 83773222.