
Microsoft Office
The Internet
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Types of Internet:

There are a lot of different types of internet. In this class we are going to talk about the most important and popular types of internet that you will encounter.

The most popular types of internet are: Dial-Up, Broadband, and DSL

Dial-Up

- Required Hardware: A 56K Modem and an active phone line
- Speed: Maximum speed is 56Kbps, but this speed is rarely achieved due to the poor quality of most phone lines.
- Providers: Dial-Up internet is available through many providers or ISP's (Internet Service Providers)...here are a few...America Online (AOL), Yahoo, Earthlink, Netzero, Internet Junction, PeoplePC, Juno, and AT&T
- Price: Usually \$9.95 to \$14.95, beware of temporary pricing. Here are a few examples. People PC, first 3 months are \$5.47, after that \$10.95 with a year contract. Juno, \$4.97 for first 3 months and \$9.95 thereafter.
 - When you are shopping for dial-up internet be sure to pay attention to whether or not you have to enter a contract and be sure to look at the exact price after the introductory rate.
- Problems: The most popular problems that occur with dial-up internet are...
 - Modem plugged into the wrong jack. On the modem (back of your computer) there are usually two connections. One is for the 'line' and the other is for the 'phone'. You want to connect the phone cable from the wall to the 'line' connection on the modem. If you plug the phone cable into the phone jack you will not be able to connect to the internet. The 'phone' connection on the modem is for plugging in a telephone. The modem acts as a pass through.
 - Modems don't like lightening. Many people that have dial-up internet do not have their phone lines surge protected. Lightening can come through the phone line just as easily as it can come through the power cables. Be sure to surge protect the phone line.
 - Call waiting can interrupt the internet connection. Dial-up internet is sensitive to interruption. If you pickup a phone or if someone else calls you while you are connected to dial-up, you may be



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disconnected. Some providers allow you to disable call waiting while connected (typically *70).

- Dial-up internet ties up the phone line. While you are on the internet you cannot use your phone.

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)

The primary DSL provider in the Sarasota and Manatee County area is Verizon.

- Required Hardware: An active phone line and either a network card or a USB port. The faster your computer, the better.
- Speed: Basic Plan up to 768Kbps, Power Plan up to 3.0Mbps
- Price: Basic Plan is \$19.99 with a 12 month contract, and the Power Plan is \$29.99 with a 12 month contract.
 - If you have dial-up internet, then the Verizon Basic Plan is a good replacement. For a small additional monthly charge, your internet will be more reliable, faster, and your phone line will not be occupied while you are on the internet.
 - If you get the Power Plan, Verizon will give you a free wireless modem.
- Problems:
 - You have to have a phone line to use DSL
 - Not everyone can get DSL

Note: In some area's FIOS is now available. FIOS is fiber optic internet. It is extremely fast and TV is available through the FIOS connection in some areas. The basic package is 5Mbps for \$39.99

Broadband (Comcast or Brighthouse)

In Sarasota and Manatee County there are two different Broadband providers.

Bradenton: Brighthouse, RoadRunner Internet Service
Sarasota/Venice: Comcast Highspeed Internet Service

Broadband internet uses the cable TV connection (coaxial) for internet. Both Brighthouse and Comcast have packages that will allow you to get internet, cable TV, and even telephone in some cases.

The savings on these packages can be substantial.



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- Required Hardware: An active cable TV line and either a network card or a USB port. The faster your computer is the better.
- Speed:
 - Road Runner: Road Runner Lite 768Kbps, and Road Runner is 7Mbps
 - Comcast: 6Mbps or 8Mbps
- Price:
 - Road Runner: Road Runner Lite is \$29.95 and Road Runner is \$44.95, and
 - Comcast: \$57.95 for non-Comcast customers, but the price will be less if you already have Comcast cable.

The Summary: Dial-Up is slow, inexpensive, and it ties up the phone line. DSL is fast, moderately expensive, and doesn't tie up the phone line. Broadband is the fastest, expensive, doesn't tie up the phone line and has a lot of extra features.

Wireless Internet

Once you have a Highspeed connection you can setup a wireless network. A wireless network is just a fancy way of saying that you can get internet without having to be connected to a wire.

How it works:

- Router is a transmitter, basically a fancy splitter.
- Wireless network card is receiver, built into most new laptops but can be purchased separate as USB, PCI, or PCMCIA
- Your current Highspeed connection connects to the wireless router and the signal is transmitted to an area of roughly 50 square yards. Bathrooms, Kitchens, and other large metal appliance can interrupt and weaken the signal.
- You can then use your computer or laptop to connect to the wireless connection.



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