



High Speed and Voice over I.P

September 1, 2005

If your property is setup with high-speed Internet access, you can incur big savings on your outgoing calls by using Voice over I.P. services to replace your local telephone and/or long distance service. Voice over I.P. services have improved in quality and reliability and still offer great pricing! Typically, you pay a flat monthly fee for a certain block of minutes (similar to cell phone plans). International calls are usually billed by the minute. For more details on exactly how phone calls are placed over data lines, visit <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/ip-telephony.htm>. The Federal Communications Commission also hosts a page that explains the benefits and pitfalls of VoIP services, <http://www.fcc.gov/voip>.

When considering VoIP services, you should have a reliable high-speed connection. You should always maintain at least one landline phone to serve as “backup” in the event your high-speed connection is interrupted. Following is a review of high-speed services and features.

Review of High Speed Options

- **DSL.** a generic name for digital lines that are provided by telephone companies to their local subscribers and that carry data at high speeds.
 - Benefits - A DSL line can carry both data and voice signals and the data part of the line is continuously connected. Because
 - Cautions - As distance decreases toward the telephone company office, the data rate increases
- **SATELLITE.** Satellite Internet services utilize telecommunications satellites in Earth orbit to provide Internet access to consumers.
 - Benefits – often covers areas where neither DSL nor Cable is available.
 - Cautions - long delays required to transmit data between the satellite and the ground stations tend to create high network **latency**, causing a sluggish performance. Older residential satellite Internet services supported only "one-way" downloads over the satellite link, requiring a telephone modem for uploading. All newer satellite services support full "two-way" satellite links.
- **CABLE SERVICE.** Because the [coaxial cable](#) used by cable TV provides much greater [bandwidth](#) than telephone lines, a cable modem can be used to achieve extremely fast access to the [World Wide Web](#).
 - Benefits– many buildings and homes are already wired for cable TV.
 - Caution - One is that the cable TV infrastructure is designed to broadcast TV signals in just one direction - from the cable TV company to people's homes. those providers which have made deals through your local cable television service

Questions to consider

Questions to ask *your neighbors* when deciding between DSL, Satellite and Cable providers.



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How is the speed?

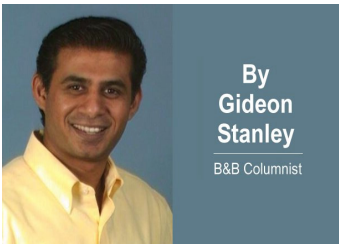
Both DSL and Cable services can be slowed down by different factors. DSL becomes slower the further your property is from the nearest DSL hub. Cable slows down as the number of users on that particular line increase.

How secure is it?

Shared connection to the provider.

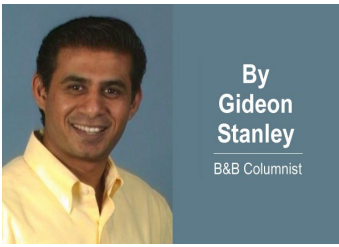
If security is a concern, DSL is generally more secure since it uses a “dedicated” rather than Internet Listing of High speed providers

<http://www.high-speed-internet-access-guide.com>



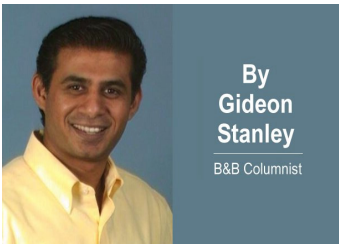
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