**INTERNET OPTIONS FOR HCH**

**FIRST SOME TERMS ETC.**

**The speed of an internet connection** is expressed in Mbps: Megabits per second or millions of units of data per second.

Generally higher numbers are better, but that depends on what type of activity you are using the internet for. Speed is not important if all you are doing is some banking, emails, or, say, downloading an e-book, because it doesn’t matter if it takes 2 seconds to see the balance in your account (etc.).

Having a higher speed is important if you want to either ‘stream’ a movie, or a TV channel, as moving pictures change faster than once every 2 seconds (for e.g.) (*This is the issue currently faced by some people wanting to stream the Rugby World Cup – their internet isn’t delivering data fast enough*). Streaming music has similar but lower requirements.

**Streaming** - receiving data (especially audio or video) as a steady continuous flow, allowing data to be displayed while receiving the next data. Giving an uninterrupted viewing experience. As a technological trend, streaming is becoming more commonly used, and the trend is gathering pace.

**Data** (quantity) is measured in GB’s: Giga bytes = 1,000 million x 8 units of information (why ‘x 8’ – because a byte equals 8 bits). This is a measurement of the amount of data consumed – normally expressed as an amount per month. If you check your emails once a day, do a little banking then you don’t consume as much data as someone who does that plus watches a streamed movie every night or plays live, online computer games.

**Wi-Fi**– an internet connection using radio waves.

**Number of users** – the more internet users in your household the more data you will require each month. The more internet users in your household who are online simultaneously, the greater the speed you need to keep everyone connected (a bit like the situation when one person is in the shower, while another flushes the toilet – only a generous water connection will suffice)

**WHAT KIND OF INTERNET USER ARE YOU?**

If you use email, banking, web browsing, Twitter, Facebook only > .> you are a Light User

If you use some of the above plus Skype, Spotify (music streaming) > > you are a Moderate User

If you use some of the above plus YouTube, Netflix, downloading > > you are a Heavy User

If you use some of the above plus conferencing and/or gaming > > you are an Extreme User

**HERE ARE SOME COMPARISONS OF INTERNET PROVIDERS:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Speed**  **Mbps** | **Advantages** | **Limitations** | **Cost/month** |
| Earthlight UFB | 50 | Fast enough for all but extreme users |  | $89 |
| Earthlight UFB shared (*special deal*) | 5+ | Fast enough for emails and web browsing | Small dish antenna added to each participating unit. | $40  (one-off set-up $115 ea. – waived if 10+ units join for 1 year min. |
| Slingshot  or ORCON | 100 | Fast enough for heavy users |  | $90  $75 if capped at 150Gb/mth |
| Stuff | 100 | Fast enough for heavy users |  | $80 |
| SPARK | 100 | Fast enough for heavy users |  | $100 |
| Bigpipe | 100 | Fast enough for heavy users |  | $89 |
| Vodafone | 100 | Fast enough for heavy users |  | $83 |
| Contact | 100 | Fast enough for heavy users | Buy electricity & gas from Contact too | $65 |
| 2 degrees | 100 | Fast enough for heavy users | Buy mobile from 2 degrees too | $75 |

All of these examples allow unlimited data per month. Some cheaper deals that limit monthly data are available. There are dozens of providers and it’s impractical to cover every offer here . . .

**A couple of websites that have up-to-date comparisons of internet offers are:**

<https://www.glimp.co.nz/> and <https://www.kiwimoneysavers.co.nz/broadband-provider-deals-nz/> and <https://www.broadbandcompare.co.nz/>

**THE PRESSING ISSUE THOUGH IS THE OFFER FROM EARTHLIGHT**: Earthlight has offered to install a shared modem that will supply internet to all our units via a transmitter on the common house, and a receiver dish on each participating unit. It is a pressing issue because some cabling and dish brackets are better installed now, during construction.

*On the plus side*: the cost per household is about half the cost of individual connections.

*On the negative*: the speed of the shared connection would only suit Light Users; a small dish would need to be fixed to each participating unit (see attached photo for similar); the entire courtyard, common house and each unit would receive an additional transmission of very high frequency electro-magnetic waves.

**MY ADVICE**: we don’t take up the shared internet offer from Earthlight; each household engages their own internet provider according to their needs.

Warren October 2019