

Simple Internet Improvements

If you have appalling broadband it could be where you are standing, the time of day or the length of the telephone line to your house. But it is probably all three.

I believe that the BT Burghfield and Theale exchange are highly contended. This means that BT (and every other provider using the phone lines) have sold many many high speed connections from the local exchange to customers houses, but have not increased the connection from the exchange to the Internet Backbone quite as much as their customers would have liked them too. This leads to a huge slow down from about 4pm in the afternoon to Midnight as people are sharing that restricted capacity.

The fundamental issue of long copper lines delivering high speed data is well known; if you live in the Parish you have probably experienced it already. If you have an ADSL (telephone line provided) service on a long line it isn't going to get any materially better. But you can make the experience better.

If you have a low speed service it is vital that you make the best use of it, so don't connect everything on Wi-Fi from one side of the house to the other. Wi-Fi is prone to errors on transmission and when it detects errors your device will ask for the entire information packet again from the internet slowing your service down even more. There are a few things you can do to make it better:

Remember the following:

- Broadband Speed is the speed that your router talks to the Exchange. It is not the speed you actually get.
- Contention (sharing) will make an enormous difference at busy times of the day
- Your Wi-Fi speed is the speed from your device to the router. It does not matter how fast your Wi-Fi is, if the contention is high or the broadband speed low the service will still be poor.

Try the following:

- Site the router as centrally as you can, remember walls block more signal than floors do.
- If your Device is near the router connect using an Ethernet cable if you can.
- Don't stand far away from the router if you are using a mobile device.
- If you have a large house consider using Ethernet Over Power (Search "homeplug" on Amazon) to connect equipment or set up multiple Wi-Fi zones.

And finally we give free advice on using and setting up Ethernet over Power and Wi-Fi zones at WBCB, so please just ask if you want some help. We even keep some loan equipment so you can try it out.

Andy

West Berks Community Broadband

By the Community: For the Community