

Comparison of Various Internet Access Alternatives

Factors to consider	Satellite Internet - Tripod	Satellite Internet- Datastorm	Cell Phone Card	Wireless Hotspot
How will you use the Internet?				
Occasional email (1-2 times/week)	Ok, but pricey	Ok, but expensive	Ok, but pricey	Good
Regular email & some surfing 1 hr. - 4 hrs./week	Ok, but pricey	Ok, but expensive	Good	Ok
Regular email, moderate surfing 30 min - 1 hr. daily	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Inconvenient
Regular email, frequent surfing 1 hr. - 2 hrs. daily	Excellent	Excellent	Marginal (rural) to Very Good (in cities)	Inconvenient
Surfing, radio, sharing connection [more than 2 hrs. daily (addicted)]	Excellent	Excellent	Ok to Very Good	Poor and no sharing
What should you consider?				
Equipment cost	\$1,400-\$1,700	\$5,500	\$20-\$125	\$0-\$100
Monthly cost	\$60-\$80	\$80	\$60-\$100	Free to \$25
Initial contract commitment	15 mos.	15 mos.	24 mos.	None
First time installation	Moderate-Challenging	Easy	Moderate	Generally easy
Setup effort to access internet	Moderate	Easy	Easy	Easy
Time to setup (typical)	20 min. - 45 min.	5 - 10 min.	Few minutes	Few minutes
Connection in cities	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Connection in smaller towns	Excellent	Excellent	Average	Spotty
Connection in rural areas	Excellent	Excellent	Poor-Spotty	Poor-Spotty
Connection in the boonies	Excellent	Excellent	None-Poor	None-Poor
Speed-Download (bits per second)	500K-1000K	500K-1000K	60K-3000K	Varies by provider
Speed-Upload (bits per second)	70K-200K	70K-200K	60K-3000K	Varies by provider

Satellite Internet-Datastorm = First time installation is noted as being easy. It is easy for the end user since they are paying for a professional installer to do all of the work. It is NOT easy for the installer, but that is why it costs more.

Cell Phone Card = Install a special card in your laptop or connect with a special cable to communicate with your cell phone service provider for access to the Internet. Figuring out what you need for your first time installation can be tricky depending on what phone and service you have.

Wireless-Hotspot = Install a wireless PC Card in your laptop (if it doesn't have one already) and connect with wireless "hotspots" at RV Parks, Starbucks, Flying J's, etc. to access the Internet.

Disclaimer: There are many variables to consider when looking at competing Internet access options. The assessments noted above are subjective, but they are representative of what many people experience. This chart is intended as a rough guide for people just starting out and who want to get an idea of the basic options available. It is not intended to steer the reader to any particular option (including our products). Please email me at "contact@pointnsurf.com" if you think information included on this chart is inaccurate. Thank you.



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