Why and How to Test Your Internet Speed

Speed testing your internet is exactly what it sounds like. It's a test that measures the speed of your current internet connection. It is important to run a speed test for a variety of reasons, but it will also help you maintain confidence in your service provider.

Why Should You Test Your Internet Speed?

1. Identify performance trends
2. Identify devices that may be causing issues
3. Ensure you are getting the speeds you purchased

4 Tips To Get The Most Accurate Speed Test Results

1.

Power cycle your modem or router and your device before testing. This is an important step because the speed test needs to utilize parts of your device's hardware to get an accurate speed test.

Keep Your Internet Accountable

2.

Avoid running a speed test wirelessly. This can be done even if you are experiencing wireless issues. You should always start with a wired speed test to truly test your network. You can run the test using a laptop or desktop that is directly connected to the modem. After you've performed the wired test, you can troubleshoot the wireless system. If you must run the speed test wirelessly, you may not see accurate speeds due to device limitations or wireless capability. If you have your own router, be sure to disconnect this device from the modem. Speed test your modem directly.

3.

Determine how many devices you currently have connected to your wireless network. Even if you are not using that device at the moment, it is likely still connected to the network and passing data on your internet system. If you can, turn off all your connected devices. This will get you the most accurate speed test and minimize excess noise on your network.

4.

Avoid running a speed test on your gaming console. It does not have the option to verify the connection through your wireless system. Often times, gaming systems will run speeds through their own remote servers which will impair your speed test results.

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How to Run a Speed Test

We suggest using speedtest.net. It is a very powerful tool and it is easy to read and understand. Simply navigate to their site and follow the prompts.

SPEEDTEST®

Evaluating the Results of Your Speed Test

The elements of your speed test will consist of three major components: download, upload and ping. Let's break down what each of these means:

Download: The amount of time it takes to obtain data (mbps)

Upload: The amount of time it takes to send data (mbps)

Ping: The time it takes between sending and receiving data (ms)

At this point you can evaluate if your internet is performing to the speeds you've purchased. If not, there may be several causes. Some of these causes may be the number of connected devices you have, how old your device is, or the band frequency you're connected to.

If you want to learn more about why your internet may not be performing properly and how to improve it, check out our troubleshooting guide on slow internet speeds:

Get the Troubleshooting Guide!

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