

US Still Lags in Delivery of High Speed Internet

PRINT

April 18, 2007

By Matt Brunk

Users still unable to tap the web with sluggish DSL lines and dialup- yes dialup still exists which should be something of an embarrassment to the carriers. Everyone points the finger at the Telco and the Telcos point back at government including the PUC's (Public Utility Commission) and PSC's (Public Service Commission).



Our friends across the pond in the UK are putting the ax to 17 outdated fixed-line networks. **BT** is doing this for two good reasons. First they are expecting to save about \$2.B USD annually and secondly they plan to deliver internet speeds up to 24 Mbps. **France Telecom** has been trialing speeds up to 100 Mbps. **Financial Times** News recently reported a reason US internet users want higher speed internet is to view **You-Tube**. This isn't "the reason" it's one of a long list of un-met needs in both commercial and consumer markets.

Of course the hairs on the back of my neck go up when I hear stories about "what they are doing in some other country and why aren't we doing it too." The US carrier network traverses a huge geographical area and of course there are other barriers too.

I should just be happy with my FIOS at home. I've successfully run an IP telephone using a couple of neat little boxes to connect a VPN from my home to my customer's offices. The phone CLID shows up as "BAT PHONE" and the quality is 5x5- that means excellent sending and receiving. Ugh- that's "QRK5"... if that helps. I don't dare do this in my office where we only have DSL.

But the fact is, not that I'm not happy with FIOS, I just want more, I want it all and I want it everywhere and so do many others. My next theory is- provide bandwidth to ALL customers (consumers, commercial, government and non-profits) and by having high speed internet access- we as a country will be in a better position to compete and I do believe the environmental impact will be positive or able to "reverse negative trends." It's an old song so forgive me, but here we are in a new age with Cisco battling Microsoft to rule the world and then dominate the telephony space while we still don't have consistent and dominate door-to-door high speed interconnectivity in this country. We haven't come close to touching the potential of IP telephony and numerous IT solutions when we still can't deliver much needed bandwidth to every home, farm, business and organization within the US. The biggest "equal access" injustice we've ever seen isn't resolved and the shame is such great potential is wasted by not having access for everyone.

It's time we stop aligning the cart before the horse and use telecom for selfish purposes like bringing more jobs back to the US, reversing the negative environmental trends and still come out making a decent profit.

Comment on this Article

[Click here to comment... \(Show/Hide Form\)](#)

Other Visitors Comments

There are no comments currently...

Close Window