

Meter Maids

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I wasn't kidding when I wrote that the Telco's including **Verizon** would end up charging us on a per-bit/byte basis for bandwidth once voice, data, video are all inclusive of that bandwidth.



While logging into a customer account to check on some pending orders I noticed a slight change to the options in Account Management in the Verizon web tools.

Meter Maids aren't used just to monitor parking.

Verizon now includes an online "My Account Usage Reports" for dsl, ISDN and or analog dial up usage.

Verizon Broadband DSL/ ISDN

<i>Month</i>	<i>Usage Total Hours</i>	<i>Analog Usage Total Hours</i>
Apr 2006	0.000	0.000
Mar 2006	213.662	0.000
Feb 2006	978.305	0.000
Jan 2006	652.527	0.000
Dec 2005	453.917	0.000
Nov 2005	582.558	0.000

Not to alarm anyone, yet, since the Verizon billing hasn't changed but are these reports intended to provide feedback to user companies as a management tool?

Most people probably wouldn't think twice about reading the terms and conditions of their internet service provider contract especially when the document fan folds out larger than any highway map as in the case of my Fios service at home. Then there are those **policies**.

You can guess that those planners at the Verizon and other Telco offices are counting on bigger returns. **Fios is powered by the user** and that knocks off a huge **power cost** and a lot less battery backup and generator capacity is required for disasters and major failures. The user pays to power Fios. As for dsl that's still powered by Verizon and the Telcos and then there's T1 and PRI and no surprise there- those too are powered by the customer. So for all those that felt Verizon and the other Telcos were venturing into losing big dollars by deploying to fiber to home in Monrovia, Maryland and other least likely locations- take note. The **cost of energy** isn't coming down anytime soon and it will continue to be a key factor.

As telecom migrates to whatever it is that it's migrating too there's a greater evil for the Telcos to unshoulder onto the users in the way of power and it seems that they are benefiting the most from cost incentives to move users to fiber. Probably another very favorable rate of return on deploying fiber (Fios) to the home, curb or business is the lessor burden of maintenance of fiber over that old copper. The kick is that I'm very happy with my Fios service, I'm just maybe overly expectant of a new twist to enter.

The triple play: voice, TV and internet access are only part of what Verizon and the Telcos are after. There's much more. Too much focus has been put on the "Triple Play" and I think that all the trimmings that go along with voice, TV, and internet all lead up to more nickels, dimes and quarters than even those meter maids could ever imagine.

But that's not likely going to be enough to satisfy Bell shaped thinking. We all know the nickel, dime, quarter routine and while many among you thought it was out and almost removed from the landscape, I wouldn't put the last nail in that coffins lid just yet. Maybe I'm dead wrong that Verizon or any of the Telcos will ever charge by the packet or by the amount of bandwidth used. Maybe those reports are for the user. Maybe

Verizon and the Telcos are and have forever changed.

Maybe those rascals are or aren't up to something, but I am certain of one thing- there's no such as thing as FREE Parking in telecom.

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