What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by sediga - 2010/06/30 10:30

I really would like to explore the WWAN options we have available now. I tether thru ATT, and with the new pricing that they have put in place, I am really not happy. Every vendor has its own WWAN option, but which is cost effective? fast? etc?
I use it for more than just email. I send documents, log into servers, etc. I use about 5-7Gig per month.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by srw134 - 2010/07/05 13:49

Well I don't know where you are but in the RTP area we have clear as a 4G alternative which is relatively cheap (compared with other broadband plans), it also links in with the Sprint 3G network which still offers unlimited data options. Sprint also has cheaper voice plans than AT&T and I am not unhappy with my move yet (recently moved from ATT to Sprint), and the Evo is just beautiful.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by sediga - 2010/07/09 09:44

I have not gone to the Sprint path and 4G as of yet. I do like the WWAN + Router approach though. I need to pay for only one plan, and I can share that among all of my mobile devices. The only issue I have with Sprint is their network â€“ they donâ€™t have good coverage. Are you seeing any problems with coverage?

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by srw134 - 2010/07/15 19:11

Well allot about their coverage issues is hype from the other carriers. Keep in mind that Sprint has a roaming agreement with Verizon which has the largest network. This roaming is also included with the Sprint unlimited plans, so no extra costs are associated.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by robjvargas - 2010/07/20 10:07

Note that the Clear plan offers unlimited 4G, but a 5GB limit when you use 3G. So you have to be more aware of the kind of traffic you're generating. Living in a 4G area, we bought a 4G device to use as a temporary Access Point until we could extend our LAN to a new building. The speed was very impressive, and very stable. We were quite happy with it.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by sediga - 2010/07/20 14:48

I must say that I hear lots about Sprintâ€™s lack of coverage. I had Sprint years back, but things obviously never stay the same. Tethering is very important to me; laptop, handheld device, etc... I think a 4G router is the way to go.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by srw134 - 2010/07/22 11:02

I agree, I think that in the very near future (should Clear's financials stay strong), 4G will be a significant player in the broadband space. Especially in areas where FTTH has not been implemented yet or in areas which are very spread out and more expensive to deploy.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by robjvargas - 2010/07/23 14:41

Fiber hasn't played out as many advocates believed it would. I haven't paid close enough attention to ascertain why so. Still, it's starting to look like Wireless (whatever the final form may be) is going to be the only reliable way to bring broadband to the masses. And I say that even knowing that municpal WiFi hasn't had much success, either.

Clear has a very impressive product. No doubt. And Sprint's 3G augmentation is actually quite good. Frankly, Sprint's 3G coverage has been more reliable for me than 3G on AT&T. Somethign that stung AT&T with Verizon's recent ad campaign. but how it compares once Verizon actually starts rolling out LTE? Only time will tell. The clock's ticking, and Verizon is quite the behemoth to take on if Clear hasn't established itself solidly in the market by then.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by srw134 - 2010/07/29 02:04

I agree, these wireless offerings will be the ones to really look at especially in markets where fiber availability is not readily available. I do however think that fiber will continue to grow but mainly for those looking for the higher speeds which are not currently available from wireless technologies. In many areas cable and FTTH providers are offering 50+ Meg to the house which is quite appealing. The real question will be cost and availability.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by ronkost - 2010/07/30 09:38

I still remember going from 2G to 3G and all the hype the carriers placed on Map Service Coverage area for voice and data. Without question Verizon has the greatest coverage in terms of 3G, and there is the whole issue of GSM coverage vs CDMA coverage, but ultimately I want a phone service to work and not gauge me every month. Having used AT&T, Sprint and Verizon now, I can honestly say it is always a tough choice. They all play up thier own flexibility and network coverages, but really it just doesn't make sense in terms of their customer service (especially AT&T). They introduce new phones to take advantage of their broadband capabilities and then change their unlimited data structures to punish the early adopters of these newer phones. Verizon seems to be the best data service for my money right now.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by srw134 - 2010/08/06 18:51

Well keep in mind that Sprint still offers unlimited plans which include their tv offerings. And with their agreements with Verizon and other carriers coverage is not an issue.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by robjvargas - 2010/08/09 08:31

srw134 wrote:
Well keep in mind that Sprint still offers unlimited plans which include their tv offerings. And with their agreements with Verizon and other carriers coverage is not an issue.

-sean
Not *quite* so. From Sprint's Terms & Conditions for their "Simply Everything" plan:
Data Usage Limitation (Mobile Broadband Cards, USB Modems, Embedded Modems and Phone-As-Modem):The amount of data transmitted over our network is measured in kilobytes (KB), megabytes (MB) or gigabytes (GB). Sprint reserves the right to limit throughput speeds or amount of data transferred; and to deny, terminate, modify, disconnect or suspend service if usage either exceeds (a.) 5GB/month in total, unless specified otherwise or (b.) 300MB/month while off-network roaming. 1024KB equal 1MB. 1024MB equal 1GB.

So they don't, technically, limit your bandwidth, but they reserve the right to act on it. In some defense of Sprint, I think the other three national carriers, AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, they actually charge when that 5GB is exceeded, so it's still a relatively good deal. But watch that "unlimited" expectation. It may not be all you expect of it.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by sediga - 2010/08/09 12:11

This is the same with ALL service providers though... Cell phone or otherwise. In fact, you will see a clause like this for every transaction these days --- how else would a service provider be able to increase or heaven forbid decrease the price?

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by robjvargas - 2010/08/09 13:07

sediga wrote:
This is the same with ALL service providers though... Cell phone or otherwise. In fact, you will see a clause like this for every transaction these days --- how else would a service provider be able to increase or heaven forbid decrease the price?

Well... the amount will differ. Comcast, for example, has a 250GB limit. But I basically agree. Sprint's service was explained here as unlimited. I was simply pointing out that Sprint gives itself an out on that one. I happen to think Sprint's terms are the most liberal of the four national carriers in the USA, but "unlimited" may or may not be so.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by srw134 - 2010/08/15 15:45

Well as I said in other thread, the use in their marketing is unlimited 4G. The 3G limit within the plans is 5GB and .05 per MB after. As a mobile user I would like to see anyone routinely compete to use over 5GB on their mobile phone, and still have a TV at their house(:-)). Now if you use it for broadband then you need to look at it more carefully if you are strictly using their 3G network.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?
Posted by sediga - 2010/08/22 21:20

I go over from time to time. Not often as i have been watching my usage, but I have gone over â€“ without even trying. I donâ€™t want TV, download media files or anything. If you are on the road for a month, and on client site without access to network, email or anything â€“ you would easily go over 5gig. Easily.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by robjvargas - 2010/08/23 07:52

Indeed, sediga, it's not as hard as it sounds if you're a very mobile user.

One of the advantages to WiMAX in this regard is that it's designed from the ground up as a wireless data service, whereas CDMA and GSM got their start as wireless voice services. I haven't taken the time to look at how Sprint's "4G Phone" actually operates. VoIP over WiMAX is possible, but I think it's more likely on Sprint's network for voice, and on Clear (where available) for data.

Anyway, since WiMAX is data-only, it can dedicate more resources to that, and that's probably why it's unlimited.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by srw134 - 2010/08/30 00:06

Well true, it has probably been built as a separate network up to a point which enables this. On top of being new which makes their 4G radios well underused which is certainly not true of their 3G radios. I think if they continue to develop it well it will take off, it will probably take a bit as the economy is still slow but in time this will develop. It was not to many years ago that I heard people say DSL would not work. As for the Evo, I have one and it works by having a separate radio which can be used. This enables the Evo to have the ability to use data and voice at the same time as GSM supports which is nice.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by sediga - 2010/08/30 12:37

I believe that all major carriers except Verizon have the capability of both Voice and Data. Are there any areas in the world that have WiMax integrated? Wonder if this could be an â€œadd-onâ€• to the infrastructure or you need to start from ground up?

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by rgarretson - 2010/08/30 15:19

If you do happen to be in within the Clear footprint (coming soon to Boston, they said on today's conference call), then the new prepaid Rover product introduced today would be a good way to test the waters. It's 4G only, so no 3G roaming, but at $50/mo. unlimited bandwidth, the $150 mobile hot-spot sounds very cost-effective for connecting up to eight devices. If you're looking for an even shorter-term test, one week of service costs $20 or it's $5 a day. (Sure beats Verizon's prepaid plan that's $80 a month with a 5GB cap.)

--Rob

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by srw134 - 2010/09/01 18:33

Well the voice and data independence is a CDMA design issue, and because of this I believe all CDMA carriers have the issue with using voice and data at the same time using the CDMA technology. The Evo for example will not do them both at the same time without a separate 4G or WIFI connection.

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I did see that product which looks interesting. I already have some Clear coverage here in Raleigh but unfortunately am building a house just outside of that area and thus have not had the urge to try it out. I do like the direction these companies are taking though.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by robjvargas - 2010/09/08 08:55

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srw134 wrote:
Well the voice and data independence is a CDMA design issue, and because of this I believe all CDMA carriers have the issue with using voice and data at the same time using the CDMA technology. The Evo for example will not do them both at the same time without a separate 4G or WIFI connection.

Yes. The next phase of CDMA, a technology called EV-DV, was supposed to rectify that. With WiMAX and LTE both outstripping the data speeds of EV-DV, and no cost savings for EV-DV, it's basically a dead technology. WiMAX, as I've already stated, is a data-only technology. I'm not sure about LTE.

I did see that product which looks interesting. I already have some Clear coverage here in Raleigh but unfortunately am building a house just outside of that area and thus have not had the urge to try it out. I do like the direction these companies are taking though.

-sean
The question being, are users going to turn to a data-only service like Clear, or is Clear better off partnering with voice providers like Sprint, or service providers like Comcast? Either way, I'd like to see WiMAX catch a real foothold, if only to keep the cellular carriers on their toes.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by srw134 - 2010/09/11 02:57

I tend to think that it is all about PR. WiMAX offers the ability to get a very high connection speed without the issue with physical media but the problem is that it is only well known to technical folk. Now with some additional PR push it is possible I believe to develop a nice customer base.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by sediga - 2010/09/13 11:13

Paying yet another bill and using another carrier is a pain, but if it ends up being cheaper than the alternative, then I am willing to consider. I have not seen WiMax in NY â€“ certainly not in the suburbs, but if it is as good as you are claiming, I am sure that it will spread like wildfire. Compatibility is key â€“ I want to use the devices I have (laptop, cell phone) to get the coverage I need.

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by srw134 - 2010/09/19 17:30

Well the nice part is if you are already a Sprint customer this type of capability is in partnership with them and Clear. I also believe there are some other carriers around here looking to get in on as a re-branding thing (I think cable is doing this around here). Time will only tell if the message can get out there, it will eventually I think but the question is the timeline.

-sean

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Re:What is the best Wireless WAN data plan?

Posted by acmz123 - 2010/12/20 04:07

My IE often get freeze recently, my friends recommend me a software, named tuneup360, he said it is very useful, which can fix all the computer problems~~but I still wonder are there any other ways to solve my problem?

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