

Connection

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January 2017

How much speed do you need?

The Internet connection speed needed in most homes has grown over the years. Determining how much Internet speed you need is a straightforward calculation but involves many factors.

You'll need to consider the total number of Internet users and the various online activities they engage in. It is also important to understand how much bandwidth is necessary for those activities and how many of those users will be using the Internet simultaneously.

The biggest way most homeowners use bandwidth is streaming or downloading entertainment content like movies and music, but there are other key uses as well.

Downloading Video. A two-hour movie is about 2 Gb of data. With 5 Mbps service it would take a little under an hour to download. By increasing your Internet speed, you simply reduce the amount of time it takes to download the content. That same movie would take half the time to download with a 10 Mbps connection.



Streaming Video. According to Netflix, for streaming a movie, you need somewhere between 0.7 Mbps to 5 Mbps per stream. High quality audio and video will require more bandwidth in order to stream properly

Streaming Music. Services like Pandora or Spotify are far less taxing on a connection
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Holiday Tech Expo drawing winners

Congratulations Tech Expo drawing winners:

Blu-Ray Player: Janise Wendt, Lowden; USB Flash Drive: JoAnn Kay, Wheatland; SD Memory Card: Barry Hoffmeier, Lowden; 50 Digital Prints: Dennis Haley, Calamus.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Technology Solutions' Holiday Tech Expo last month.

Almanac calendars

A few 2017 F&B almanac calendars are still available. Stop by the F&B office or Technology Solutions to pick up a complimentary calendar.

Change of hours

Beginning in January, Technology Solutions will close at 5 pm on Mondays. All other hours remain the same.

Monday 9 am to 5 pm
Tuesday 9 am to 5 pm
Wednesday 9 am to 6 pm
Thursday 9 am to 5 pm
Friday 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday 9 am to noon

College scholarship deadline Feb. 21

\$3,000 available to local high school senior

Good grades, band, basketball, drama, track, church, National Honor Society, community service and student council. If you know a bright student who is highly involved, then they are likely a good candidate for the F&B Communications scholarship.

This spring F&B will award one \$500 scholarship to a deserving high school senior in the telephone service area based on scholastic achievement, citizenship and school and community involvement.

This is the fifteenth year for the local F&B program.

F&B is also teaming up with the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) to give all applicants an opportunity to win one of several \$2,500 awards and other national telecom scholarships.

For more information or an application form, visit www.fbc-tele.com or contact F&B Communications at (563) 374-1236.

Application materials will be available after Jan. 4.

How to apply

1. Download application from www.fbc-tele.com
2. Complete application, essay, community leader's recommendation and educator's recommendation forms (in sealed envelopes).
3. Postmark application materials or deliver to F&B Communications by Feb. 21, 2017.



Scott Butt, Logan Warren new plant technicians



SCOTT BUTT



LOGAN WARREN

Scott Butt and Logan Warren have joined the F&B team as plant technicians.

Scott has previous experience at another independent telephone company and Logan began working at F&B in the summer of 2016 as a seasonal construction worker.

Both will assist in outside plant operations doing customer installations and repairs of Internet, video and phone services as well as doing cable locating and construction.

GET FASTER INTERNET AND MAKE THE WHOLE HOUSE HAPPY

Think about all the devices and Internet activities in your house on a typical day. They probably add up to a lot more total broadband usage than you had even a year or two ago. If your speed is no longer adequate, you may be experiencing annoying slowdowns such as video buffering. There's a quick way to solve this problem. **Call (563) 374-1236 now to sign up for a faster Internet plan by upgrading to the next level of service FREE for 60 days!***

*Service availability and Internet speeds will depend on location. All prices subject to change. If no request to downgrade is made before 60-day trial ends, trial Internet speed will become current Internet speed and upgrade pricing will apply. Contact us for complete details. Offer good through 1/31/17.

How much speed do you need?

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as they require about 0.5 Mbps for the highest quality audio.

E-mail. Estimates are that an average e-mail without attachments is about 75 Kb, which is 0.075 Mb, in size. An e-mail with a file attached increases by the size of the file.

Online Gaming. Bandwidth usage estimates for online gaming are around 150 Mb per hour or about 1/20 Mbps. The real culprit is the usage for software updates to the games or the audio calling services gamers use to talk to one another.

Video Chat. For a two-way video call, Skype recommends 0.5 Mbps as a minimum upload and download speed.

Social Media. Facebook users average about 0.03 Mbps when browsing the site, but requirements increase significantly when streaming videos from the site.

With this general information in mind, you can see how a multi-user household could easily need a 10 Mbps connection or more. For more information about evaluating your Internet bandwidth needs, contact the office at (563) 374-1236.



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BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS
Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm

PHONE NUMBERS
Business Office
(563) 374-1236 or (563) 574-1236
Trouble/Repair
(563) 374-1238 or (563) 574-1238
Internet Tech Support (24/7)
1-888-832-4322
Technology Solutions
(563) 374-1322

WEB SITE
www.fbc-tele.com

EMPLOYEES
General Manager: Ken Laursen
Assistant General Manager:
Aaron Horman
Office Manager: Ariell Connelly
Administrative Assistant:
Carla Olson

Billing/CABS: Kendra Rock
Customer Service: April
Carpenter, Michelle Harrison
Plant Technicians: Pat Ahrens,
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Hendrickson, Tyler Leibold,
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