

Computer Tips

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Michael's Computer Services

Wireless Broadband

Some of our older readers will remember the days long ago when technology was young, and just newly out was the invention — the wireless. To listen to music, talk back, and local news from the little newfangled device was a wonderful marvel!

Today, we use the same term, but what a vast difference is meant. Wireless today means much more than music, voices, and scheduled programs. Available now is wireless broadband, the technology that delivers the Internet on the same radio waves as mobile phones.

Wireless broadband is Internet access at broadband speeds, using a modem device similar to a USB Flash Drive. Wireless broadband uses the 3G mobile network, and offers a number of benefits over traditional broadband internet. The most significant of these benefits is mobility, the technology allowing you to move about anywhere where there is 3G mobile reception, and receive the Internet at broadband speeds. With claims of the 3G mobile network stretching over 94% of Australia, there should be a good chance you can access wireless broadband.

Having said this, there is however an important difference between mobile phones and wireless broadband. While you can make a call, or send an sms on almost no mobile reception, it is not so with wireless broadband. Wireless broadband requires good to excellent 3G mobile reception in order to work. If you are in a fringe reception area for your mobile network, chances are you wont get reliable wireless broadband, even with an extension aerial.

We have had several customers call us, wondering why their new wireless broadband package will not work. When I asked their location, I recognized that they were in a fringe, or non-existent 3G mobile reception area. In spite of the promises they had received from the wireless broadband provider, the wireless modem needs good reception to connect.

On the subject of reception, the mobile access coverage also varies between wireless providers. The 3 largest providers, Telstra, Optus, and Virgin, all provide access to the lower South Burnett area. Even here in Nanango township however, wireless broadband reception is mixed. Providers using Telstra's NextG network have limited success connecting in the south of the town, due to the shadow of the hill between them and the tower near Tarong. Providers using the Optus 3G network have good success in most of the town, because of the Optus tower's location on Hospital hill. Users in Yarraman do not have reliable access to Optus based 3G wireless broadband, due to an absence of a suitable Optus tower.

If you want to know if wireless broadband works in your area, check using a 3G mobile phone. If you get half to full reception on your phone, you should be able to get wireless broadband. To setup your new wireless broadband package, contact us on 4171 0981, or email: info@mcsit.com.au



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