Testimony of
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Submitted to the
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate

Hearing on
Why Broadband Matters
September 16, 2007

Summary

Speed Matters on the Internet. High-speed broadband networks are the platform upon which we will grow jobs and our economy in the coming years. Equally important, advanced networks support innovations in health care, education, public safety, energy, and public services that will improve our lives and communities.

Yet, the U.S. trails behind other countries in the deployment and adoption of high-speed Internet. The U.S. has dropped to 15th among the world's advanced economies in home broadband penetration. There is a serious digital divide based on income and geography.

CWA's second annual report on Internet speeds in all 50 states found that the U.S. continues to lag far behind other countries in Internet speeds. The median Internet download speed for the nation in 2008 was 2.3 megabits (mbps). Contrast this to Japan, where the median download speed is 63 mbps – 30 times faster than in the U.S., and yet the Japanese pay about the same as we do for their faster Internet connection.

Speed determines what is possible on the Internet. Job creation, rural development, telemedicine, distance learning, independence for people with disabilities, even solutions to global warming all rely on truly high-speed, universal networks.

The U.S. is the only industrial nation without a national broadband policy. It is long past time for the Senate to adopt, S.1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act. S. 1492. This bill would improve broadband data collection, and provide grants to states for broadband mapping and public-private partnerships to increase supply of and demand for broadband networks and services. This bill is a critical first step in moving our nation forward on a broadband agenda.

In addition, we need to set a national goal of universal broadband networks delivering 10 mbps downstream and 1 mbps upstream by 2010, and 100 mbps in both directions by 2015. Targeted broadband tax credits, reform of our universal service system, and demand stimulation programs will support and accelerate private sector deployment and consumer adoption of high-speed networks.

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on why broadband matters.

I am Larry Cohen, President of the Communications Workers of America. CWA represents 700,000 workers in communications, media, airlines, manufacturing and public service. Our members build, maintain, service, and create the content that travels over our nation's vital communications networks. Everyday they see why broadband matters.

Speed Matters on the Internet

Two years ago CWA launched our Speed Matters campaign. Over these past 24 months, CWA activists have been spreading the word about why speed matters on the Internet. We've talked about it at state fairs, in union halls, before educators and health care professionals and farm organizations, in dozens of state houses and city council chambers and state broadband commissions. Everywhere we've gone, people get it. Speed Matters on the Internet. We've helped move state broadband initiatives to bring the benefits of this technology to every American household, business, and community in America.

Now it's time to bring national leadership to this critical issue. It is long past time for the Senate to adopt S.1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act. This bill would improve federal broadband data collection, provide grants to states for broadband mapping and for public-private partnerships to stimulate supply of and demand for broadband networks and services. States such as Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Virginia, Washington, North Carolina, California and others have demonstrated the effectiveness of such partnerships, but their work is hampered by state fiscal

constraints and the lack of a nationally-focused effort.[1] Adopting a national policy to stimulate broadband subscription where it is already available, and deployment where it is not, could have dramatic and far-reaching economic impacts, estimated at more than $134 billion.[2] A broad-based alliance of 31 groups representing health care, education, labor, rural and public interest organizations, telecommunications and cable companies, and trade associations have joined together to urge Congress to act now to adopt S.1492 as a critical first step in moving this nation forward on a broadband agenda. (A copy of this letter is attached to my testimony.)

High-speed broadband is *the* critical infrastructure for the 21st century. In the same way that railroads, canals, and the postal service drove economic development in the 19th century, and interstate highways and universal telephone service helped make us the richest nation on earth in the 20th century, high-speed broadband networks are the platform upon which we will grow jobs and our economy in the coming years. Equally important, advanced networks support innovations in health care, education, public safety, energy, and public services that will improve our lives and communities.

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[1] States that have adopted the Connected Nation public-private partnership model include Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia, and South Carolina. Additional states with broadband task forces, commissions, authorities or reports include Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, New York, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. For more information on state programs, see CWA and Alliance for Public Technology, "State Broadband Initiatives," 2008 (available at http://www.speedmatters.org/statepolicy)

[2] Connected Nation found that increased broadband adoption by seven percent could result in 2.4 million new jobs; $552 million annual health care savings; $6.4 billion annual savings from unnecessary driving; $18 million in carbon credits associated with 3.2 billion fewer pounds of CO2 emissions per years; and $35.2 billion in 3.8 billion hours saved from accessing broadband at home. Connected Nation, "The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally," Feb. 2008 (available at http://www.connectednation.org/research/economic_impact_study/index.php).

U.S. Trails Behind Other Countries

Our nation is falling behind other industrialized countries in the deployment and adoption of high-speed Internet. You've heard the statistics. The U.S. has dropped to 15th among the world's advanced economies in home broadband penetration.[3] There's a serious digital divide based on income and geography. Families in rural areas are much less likely to subscribe to broadband than those living in urban or suburban communities. And only one-quarter of low-income Americans have broadband, compared to 85 percent of those at the top of the income scale.[4]

Moreover, we're falling behind our global competitors in the capacity of our broadband networks. Last month, CWA released the results of our second annual survey of Internet speeds in all 50 states. You can see the results on the chart – the United States continues to lag far behind other countries.

According to the survey, the median Internet download speed for the nation is 2.3 megabits per second (mbps). Contrast this to Japan, where the median download speed is 63 megabits per second -- 30 times faster than in the U.S, and yet the Japanese pay about the same

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[3] Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2007 (report available at http://www.oecd.org/document/54/0,3343,en_2649_34225_38690102_1_1_1_1,00.html). The U.S. ranked 24th in broadband subscribers among all countries, according to the International Telecommunications Union, World Telecommunications Database 2007 (available at http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/newslog/ITUs+New+Broadband+Statistics+For+1+January+2005.aspx)

[4] Fifty-seven percent of urban households and 60 percent of suburban households subscribe to broadband, compared to only 38 percent or rural households. Whereas 85 percent of Americans who earn over $100,000 a year have broadband, only 25 percent of households that earn less than $20,000 subscribe. Only about one-half (49 percent) of middle-income families earning between $30,000 and $40,000 a year subscribe to broadband. Pew Internet & American Life Project, "Home Broadband Adoption 2008." (available at http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/257/report_display.asp)

as we do for their faster Internet connection. The U.S. also trails South Korea, Finland, France, Canada, and even Croatia.[5]

Equally troubling, the 2008 speed test shows that the median Internet download speed increased by only four-tenths of one megabit per second over last year. At this rate of progress, it will take the U.S. more than 100 years to catch up with current Internet speeds in Japan.

The CWA report details median Internet download and upload speeds in every state. But whatever state you live in, your Internet connection speed likely trails those of residents of our northern neighbor Canada, a large country with a significant rural population.

Speed Matters for U.S. Economic Growth and Job Creation

Why does speed matter on the Internet? Speed determines what is possible. I'm talking about more than the speed at which you can download movies. Job creation, rural development, telemedicine, distance learning, even solutions to global warming all rely on truly high-speed, universal networks.

High-speed broadband is essential for economic growth. In a report prepared for the U.S. Department of Commerce, economists found that communities with broadband experienced a higher rate of job growth and new business start-ups than communities without high-speed networks. Another study of the central Appalachian region found that firms in communities with

[5] For international data, *see* Robert D. Atkinson, Daniel K. Correa, Julie K. Hedlund, *Explaining International Broadband Leadership,* Washington, D.C.: The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, May 2008 (available at http://www.itif.org/files/ExplainingBBLeadership.pdf). The CWA Speed Matters 2008 report is available at http://www.speedmatters.org

broadband were 14 to 17 percent more productive than those in communities without high-speed Internet access. A Brookings Institution paper calculated that build-out of broadband infrastructure to all households would add $500 billion to gross domestic product and 1.2 million additional jobs. Another report warned that the failure to improve broadband performance could reduce U.S. productivity by one percentage point or more per year.[6]

Behind these statistics are real stories that people have shared with our Speed Matters team about the ways in which high-speed Internet creates economic opportunity and good jobs across our great nation. Just ask any of the 500 CWA members working at an AT&T call center in southwestern Virginia, an area suffering from the decline of the coal and tobacco industries. They'll tell you that building a fiber backbone to their region was literally a lifeline for themselves and their families. Or ask Daniel and Karen Fortin of rural northern Vermont, who told us that their broadband connection allowed them to double their maple syrup business through Internet marketing and sales. A hog farmer in Iowa let us know that direct marketing to customers around the globe using broadband boosted his profit margin. And the owners of several small businesses in the Appalachian region of southern Ohio told us that they were able to create 60 new jobs once Connect Ohio's public-private partnership found a way to bring a high-speed connection to their industrial park. The examples go on and on…

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[6] William Lehr, Carlos A. Osorio, Sharon E. Gillett, and Marvin Sirbu, "Measuring Broadband's Economic Impact," U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (Feb. 2006) (available at http://www.eda.gov/ImageCache/EDAPublic/documents/pdfdocs2006/mitcmubbimpactreport_2epdf/v1/mitcmubbimpactreport.pdf); Mark L. Burton and Michael J. Hicks, "The Residential and Commercial Benefits of Rural Broadband: Evidence from Central Appalachia," June 2005, Paper prepared for the West Virginia Development Office, Center for Business and Economic Research, Marshall University; R. Crandall and C. Jackson, "The $500 Billion Opportunity: The Potential Economic Benefit of Widespread Diffusion of Broadband Internet Access," Criterion Economics, 2001 (available at http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/broadband/comments/verizon/ExhibitA.pdf); C. Ferguson, "The United States Broadband Problem: Analysis and Recommendations," Brookings Institution Working Paper, 2002 (available at http://www.brookings.edu/views/papers/ferguson/working_paper_20020531.pdf)

Speed Matters Offers Solutions to High Gas Prices and Global Warming

High-speed broadband also offers opportunities to address our energy crisis and to save on gas expenses through reduced travel time. Telehealth, distance learning, teleconferencing, and telecommuting allow people to learn, work, and receive health care services at home without getting in their car. One study estimates that widespread adoption of these broadband applications over ten years could save the equivalent of 11 percent of annual U.S. oil imports.[7] Other nations and some states and localities are experimenting with the use of smart meters and electric grids to reduce energy consumption by transmitting real-time information about energy use over two-way broadband networks. A statewide pilot project in California found that the information provided to consumers using smart meters reduced energy bills by 10 percent. The Electric Power Research Institute estimates that investment in smart grid technology, including a modernized high-speed Internet communications system, would yield a 20-year benefit of ranging from $638 billion to $802 billion.[8]

Speed Matters for Education and Lifelong Learning

Advanced broadband networks open opportunities for students to participate in online learning and lifelong education. Almost 3.5 million students take one or more courses online every year, according to the Sloan Foundation.[9] Many of these are non-traditional students – working parents, employees who want to advance their careers, or unemployed adults entering

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[7] Joseph P. Fuhr and Stephen B. Pociask, "Broadband Services: Economic and Environmental Benefits," Oct. 2007 (available at http://www.internetinnovation.org/Portals/0/Documents/Final_Green_Benefits.pdf).

[8] See Report of Governmental Affairs Division, Committee on Consumer Affairs, New York City Council, Nov. 15, 2006 (available at http://webdocs.nyccouncil.info/attachments/75229.htm); Economic Power Research Institute, "Power Delivery System of the Future: A Preliminary Estimate of Costs and Benefits," 2006 (available at http://my.epri.com/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=210&mode=2&in_hi_userid=2&cached=true).

[9] The Sloan Consortium of Institutions and Organizations Committed to Quality Online Education (available at http://www.sloan-c.org/)

the workforce. They find the convenience of online learning allows them to take courses without the conflicts of child care, busy schedules, or non-traditional work hours. Online learners who have two-way, video connections carried over truly high-speed broadband can participate in class discussions and ask questions in real-time, creating a virtual classroom experience. States such as New Jersey and Texas have used federal job training monies to help low-income adults gain new skills through online coursework.[10] CWA offers online education and training programs in three areas – telecommunications, digital media, and criminal justice. Our CWA/NETT Academy, as we call it, allows our members to meet new technical requirements and branch into new areas of study in rapidly-changing industries so they can succeed in their careers. As the quality of U.S. broadband networks improves, our university partners are able to provide ever-more engaging interactive, multi-media learning experiences for our members.[11]

The U.S. Must Adopt a National Broadband Policy

The United States is the only industrial nation without a national broadband policy to promote high-speed broadband. There are a number of bold but specific steps that the U.S. should take to recover our lost leadership and competitive position to ensure that all residents benefit from affordable, high-speed Internet access.

First, we must improve our broadband data collection. The Federal Communications Commission took a first step earlier this year, requiring all carriers to report the number of

[10] Dr. Mary Gatt, "The New Digital Divide for Workforce Development Policy: Broadband Access and Skills Training," Sloan Center on Innovative Training and Workforce Development, Center for Women and Work, Rutgers University, 2006 (available at http://www.itwd.rutgers.edu/mainPages/index.htm).

[11] For more information, see CWA/Nett Academy at http://www.cwanett.org.

broadband subscribers at the census tract level by technology type and upload and download speed. Now, the Commission is considering reporting requirements on broadband infrastructure.

S.1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act, would fill in important gaps in the Commission's broadband data collection. For example, the bill would require the Commission to analyze demographic information in areas without broadband and report on international broadband comparisons; it would require the Census Bureau to collect detailed information about broadband prices, technology, applications, and subscription in its annual consumer survey; and it would require the Government Accounting Office to study best practices for reporting broadband price, speed, and other critical issues.

As I noted earlier, S. 1492 would also authorize a program of grants to states to conduct broadband mapping and fund initiatives to stimulate broadband adoption where it is available, and deployment where it is not. In Kentucky, such a program resulted in a three-year increase in broadband availability from 60 percent to 95 percent of households.[12] CWA members sit on a number of state broadband commissions, and know first-hand the fiscal limitations those bodies face in moving forward with their work. I strongly urge Congress to pass S.1492 this session to improve our knowledge base on broadband deployment and adoption, and to assist states in their important efforts.

Looking ahead, CWA supports a number of other policies to stimulate broadband deployment and adoption. First, we must establish a national policy goal. CWA recommends we set a two tiered goal of build-out of networks with enough capacity for 10 megabits per second

[12] Information on Connect Kentucky available at http://www.connectkentucky.org.

downstream and 1 megabit per second upstream by 2010, and capable of delivering 100 megabits per second in both directions by 2015, as proposed by Senator Rockefeller in S.Res.191. Second, we need to reform our universal service system to support affordable high-speed Internet for all. Third, we should adopt policies that spur deployment of faster, second-generation networks through tax incentives and low-interest loans. Fourth, we should support demand-stimulation programs that fund grants for community-based public-interest broadband applications and services, digital literacy programs, and provision of free and low-cost computers to low-income households. Finally, we must preserve an open Internet, subject to reasonable network management. In all these initiatives, we must continue to safeguard consumers and promote good career jobs for workers in the industry.

I want to conclude with a story that captures how Speed Matters can erase the barriers of time and distance to improve lives. This past summer, Marine Lance Corporal Michael Cintron was 6,000 miles away from home when his wife Jeanine gave birth to his son. Cintron was able to watch the birth over a four-hour web cast from Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. As reported in the *NY Daily News,* this soldier stationed in Iraq heard the baby's heartbeat and got to see his son in New York even before the birth mother, as they put the webcam up to the side of the baby. (A copy of the article is attached)

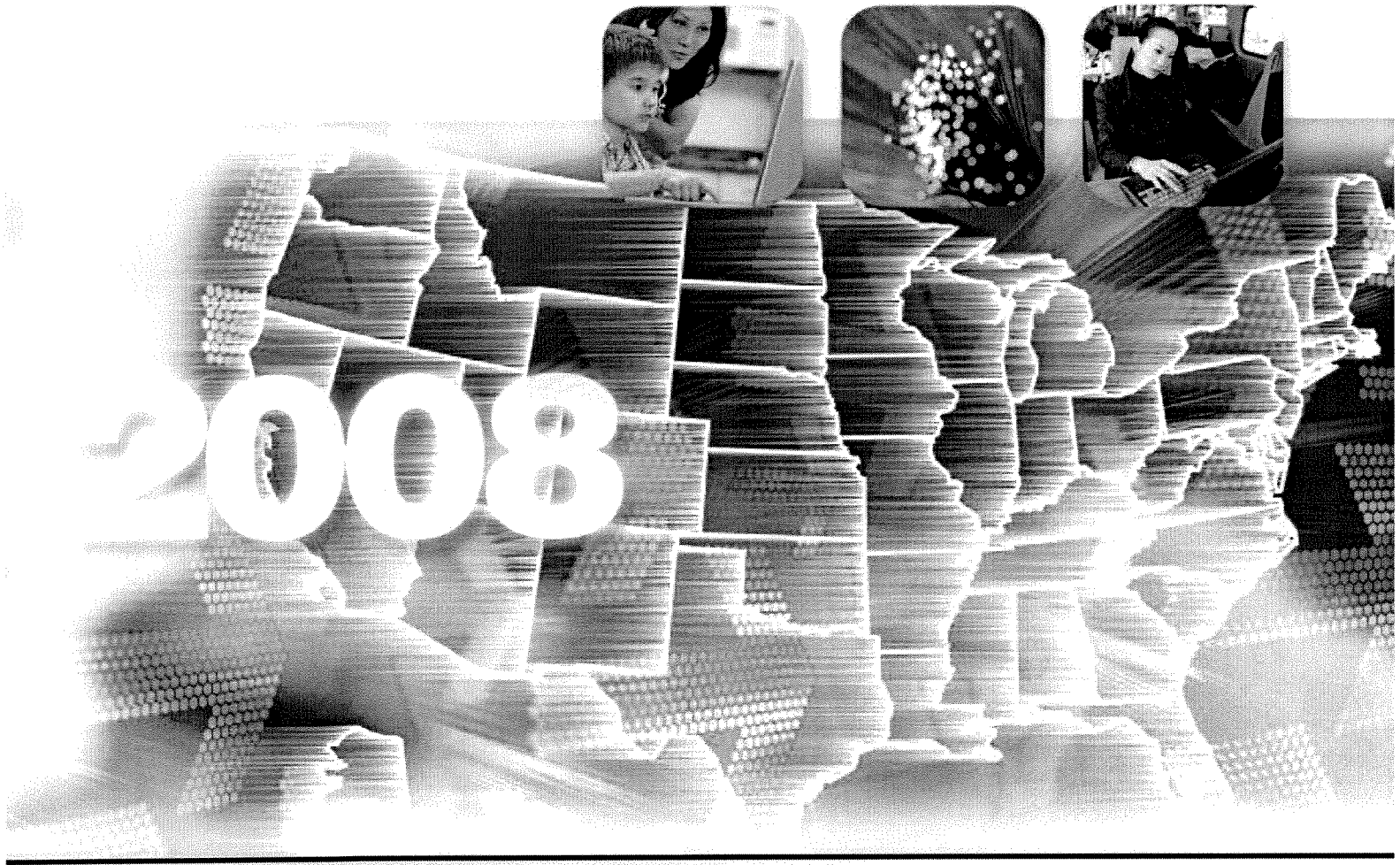
This is the power of broadband. It's up to us to make sure that every American has access to the power of this technology. Speed Matters.

Thank you.

www.speedmatters.org

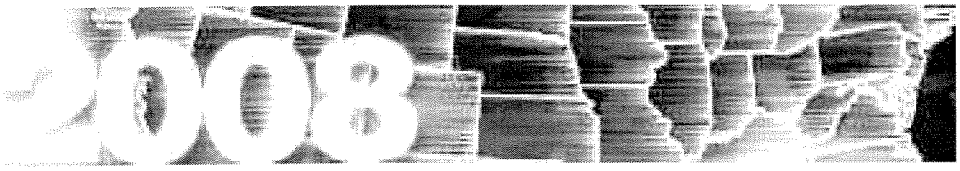
Speed Matters

Communications Workers of America



A Report on Internet Speeds in All 50 States & Puerto Rico

www.speedmatters.org



Speed Matters

U.S. Internet Speeds In 2008 Show Little Growth Over Previous Year

The results of this second annual survey of Internet Speeds show that the United States has not made significant improvement in the speeds at which residents connect to the Internet. Our nation continues to fall far behind other countries.

Between May 2007 and May 2008, nearly 230,000 people in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico — most of them with broadband connections — have gone to the speedmatters.org site to take an Internet speed test and measure how fast their computers can upload and download data. The results of this national survey of actual Internet speeds show just how far the U.S. continues to lag behind other countries.

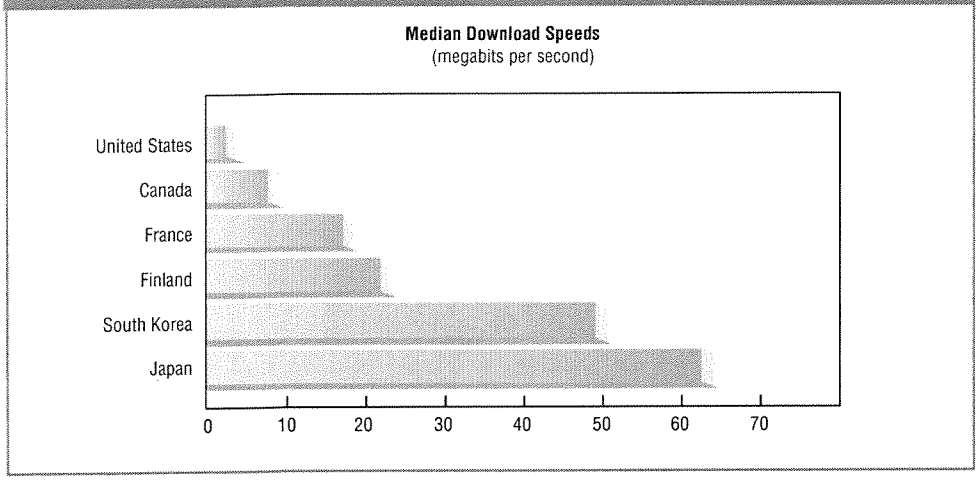
The median download speed for the nation was 2.3 megabits per second (mbps). In Japan, the median download speed is 63 mbps, or 30 times faster than the U.S. The U.S. also trails South Korea at 49 mbps, Finland at 21 mbps, France at 17 mbps, and Canada at 7.6 mbps. The median upload speed from the speedmatters.org test was just 435 kilobits per second (kbps), far too slow for patient monitoring or to transmit large files such as medical records.

The results of the 2008 speed test show little progress over last year. In 2007, we released the first-ever national survey of actual Internet speeds. The 2007 results showed the median download speed for the 50 states and the District of Columbia was 1.9 megabits per second and the median upload speed was 371 kbps. In other words, between 2007 and 2008, the median download speed increased by only four-tenths of a megabit per second (from 1.9 mbps to 2.3 mbps), and the median upload speed barely changed (from 371 to 435 kbps). At this rate, it will take the United States more than 100 years to catch up with current Internet speeds in Japan.

Internet Speeds in All 50 States

Speed Test results for September 2006 through May 2007

U.S. Internet is Far Behind the Rest of the World



Source: International data from the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation;

US data from speedmatters.org test results. Most test participants had DSL or cable modem connections.

Most people who went to speedmatters.org to take the speed test used a DSL connection, a cable modem, or a fiber connection. Very few people with dial-up took the test because it took too long. About 15 percent of Americans still connect to the Internet with a dial-up connection.[1] So the median speeds in this report are actually higher than if dial-up Internet users had chosen to participate in the survey. In other words, even these dismal statistics paint a rosier picture than the reality.

Why Speed Matters

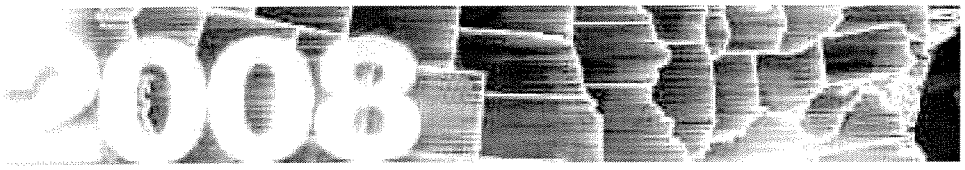
U.S. Economic Growth Depends on High-Speed Internet. We need high-speed Internet for our homes, schools, hospitals, and workplaces. Speed defines what is possible on the Internet. It determines whether we will have the 21st century networks we need to create the jobs of the future, develop our economy, and support innovations in telemedicine, education, public safety, and public services to improve our lives and communities. Most U.S. Internet connections today are not fast enough to permit interactive home-based medical monitoring, multi-media distance learning, or to send and receive data to run a home-based business.

U.S. Trails Far Behind Other Countries. The United States — the country that invented the Internet — has fallen to 15th behind other industrialized nations in the percent of the population subscribing to broadband.[2] In addition, countries like Canada, France, and South Korea have better, faster Internet connections. People in Japan can download an entire movie in just two minutes, but it can take two hours or more in the United States. Yet, people in Japan pay the same as we do for their Internet connection.[3]

1 Pew Internet and American Life Project, Press Release, "Fifty-five Percent of Americans Have Home Broadband Connections," July 2, 2008 (available at http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/305/press_release.asp).

2 The U.S. ranked 16th in broadband penetration among industrial nations in 2006, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The OECD surveys are available at http://www.oecd.org/document/54/0,3343,en_2649_33703_38690102_1_1_1_1,00.html). The U.S. ranked 24th in broadband subscribers among all countries, according to the International Telecommunications Union, World Telecommunications Database 2007 (available at http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/newslog/ITUs+New+Broadband+Statistics+For+1+January+2005.aspx).

3 Robert D. Atkinson, Daniel K. Correa, Julie K. Hedlund, Explaining International Broadband Leadership, Washington, D.C.: The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, May 2008 (available at http://www.itif.org/files/ExplainingBBLeadership.pdf); Derek S. Turner, "Broadband Reality Check", Aug. 2006 (available at http://www.freepress.net/docs/bbrc2-final.pdf); CWA, "Speed Matters: Affordable, High Speed Internet for All, 2006 (available at http://files.cwa-union.org/speedmatters/SpeedMattersCWAPositionPaper.pdf).



Millions of Americans Don't Have High-Speed Internet. All too many Americans encounter a significant digital divide. Families in rural areas are much less likely to subscribe to broadband. According to surveys, while 57 percent of urban households and 60 percent of suburban households subscribe to broadband, only 38 percent of rural households do. Similarly, whereas 85 percent of Americans who earn over $100,000 a year have broadband, only 25 percent of households that earn less than $20,000 subscribe. Only about one-half (49 percent) of middle-income families earning between $30,000 and $40,000 a year subscribe to broadband.[4]

Eight Steps To Affordable, High Speed Internet For All

The United States is the only industrialized nation without a national policy to promote high-speed broadband. There are a number of bold but specific steps that the United States should take to recover our lost leadership and competitive position to ensure that all residents benefit from affordable, high-speed Internet access.

1. ESTABLISH A NATIONAL POLICY GOAL. A reasonable initial goal would be to construct an infrastructure with enough capacity for 10 megabits per second (mbps) downstream and 1 mbps upstream by 2010.

2. DEVELOP STATE AND NATIONAL MAPS OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE. Today, we do not have detailed national information about broadband deployment, adoption, speed, and prices. Some progressive states are leading the way by mapping their state's broadband infrastructure, and Congress is considering legislation that would provide grants to states to support such efforts. In 2008, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated improvements in its broadband data collection, which should facilitate crafting policy to address gaps in deployment and adoption.

3. CREATE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND BROADBAND TASK FORCES TO PROMOTE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET DEPLOYMENT AND ADOPTION. One model is ConnectKentucky, where a consortium of telecommunications companies, state and local governments, schools, libraries, health care providers, unions, and community groups came together to create a state broadband map. Then, community teams developed local technology plans to stimulate demand for and adoption of high-speed broadband. As a result, broadband deployment in Kentucky increased from 60 to 95 percent, computer ownership increased 54 percent, and almost 54,000 technology-related jobs were created over a three-year period.[5] A number of states have adopted the ConnectedNation model, while still others have created broadband task forces, commissions, or authorities.[6]

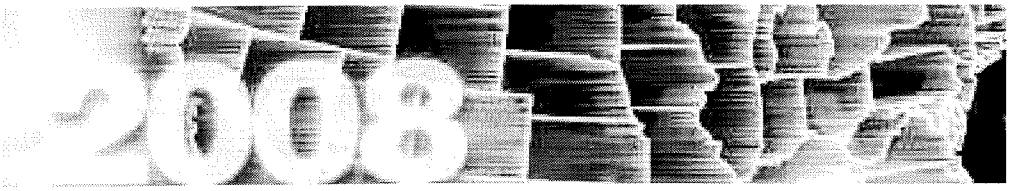
4. REFORM UNIVERSAL SERVICE. Today, universal service subsidies support voice telephony service. We should reform the universal service program to support affordable, high-speed Internet for all. In addition, we can adopt tax incentives, low-interest loans, and grants to stimulate build-out of high-speed networks everywhere.

5. NO CHILD OFFLINE. One-third of adults in the United States do not use the Internet, and most of them do not own a personal computer. We should adopt programs — like those in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Maine — that provide free or low-cost computers to low-income households, expand community-based digital literacy, and fund grants for com-

4 Pew Internet & American Life Project, "Home Broadband Adoption 2008." (available at http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Broadband_2008.pdf)

5 Connect Kentucky Quarterly, Spring 2008 (available at http://www.connectkentucky.org/_documents/connected_spring_08_FINAL.pdf); see also Connected Nation, The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally, Feb. 21, 2008 (available at http://www.connectednation.org/documents/cn_executive_summary_final.pdf).

6 States that have adopted the ConnectedNation model include Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia, and South Carolina. Additional states with broadband task forces, commissions, or authorities include California, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, New York, Vermont, and Virginia.



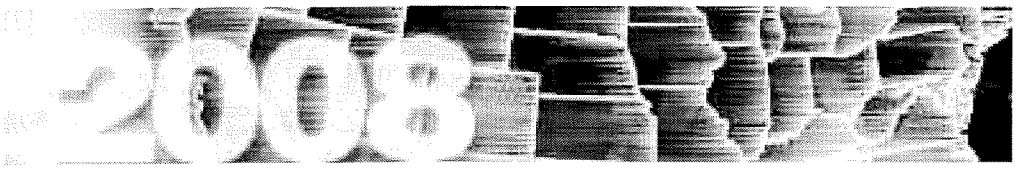
Speed Matters

Appendix

State	2008 Number of Tests	2008 Median Download Speed (kbps)	2008 Median Upload Speed (kbps)	2008 Download Speed Ranking	2007 Median Download Speed (kbps)	2007 Median Upload Speed (kbps)	2007 Download Speed Ranking
United States	**229,494**	**2,346**	**435**		**1,973**	**371**	
Alabama	2,027	2,213	382	33	1,777	306	25
Alaska	759	814	246	51	545	206	51
Arizona	4,127	2,172	522	34	1,635	557	29
Arkansas	1,374	1,342	326	46	1,326	321	42
California	22,173	2,470	436	25	1,520	362	36
Colorado	3,406	2,341	645	29	1,354	489	41
Connecticut	1,960	2,888	482	12	2,244	370	15
DC	1,917	2,782	1,285	16	1,372	724	39
Delaware	361	6,685	1,483	2	2,657	365	9
Florida	11,194	3,988	457	7	2,368	368	13
Georgia	4,715	3,041	425	9	2,714	347	7
Hawaii	703	1,675	424	42	1,965	365	23
Idaho	1,213	1,326	364	47	1,323	367	43
Illinois	6,002	2,522	485	24	2,184	365	17
Indiana	3,244	2,301	492	31	1,955	434	24
Iowa	2,573	1,455	488	45	1,262	489	47
Kansas	1,471	2,466	485	26	4,167	470	2
Kentucky	2,320	1,795	395	41	1,607	363	32
Louisiana	1,748	2,706	462	18	2,751	378	6

Speed Matters

State	2008 Number of Tests	2008 Median Download Speed (kbps)	2008 Median Upload Speed (kbps)	2008 Download Speed Ranking	2007 Median Download Speed (kbps)	2007 Median Upload Speed (kbps)	2007 Download Speed Ranking
Maine	1,162	2,558	369	21	1,534	368	35
Maryland	4,625	3,981	1,000	8	2,589	381	10
Massachusetts	3,821	4,564	1,354	5	3,004	369	5
Michigan	5,424	2,573	470	20	2,042	364	19
Minnesota	2,650	1,566	512	44	1,771	376	26
Mississippi	865	1,567	340	43	1,620	324	30
Missouri	5,194	1,881	475	39	1,432	327	38
Montana	497	1,320	378	49	1,312	389	45
Nebraska	1,070	2,032	375	35	1,994	491	22
Nevada	1,795	2,815	519	15	1,617	436	31
New Hampshire	1,542	2,877	445	13	2,700	368	8
New Jersey	3,805	5,825	1,419	3	3,680	670	3
New Mexico	1,299	2,003	517	36	1,716	429	27
New York	15,349	4,142	714	6	3,436	652	4
North Carolina	4,568	2,925	369	11	2,225	365	16
North Dakota	231	1,164	332	50	1,308	458	46
Ohio	8,627	2,523	484	23	1,359	368	40
Oklahoma	1,895	1,856	435	40	1,689	433	28
Oregon	2,673	2,624	622	19	2,390	436	12
Pennsylvania	8,076	2,396	504	27	1,567	362	33
Puerto Rico	651	499	183	52			
Rhode Island	665	6,769	1,624	1	5,011	1,739	1



State	2008 Number of Tests	2008 Median Download Speed (kbps)	2008 Median Upload Speed (kbps)	2008 Download Speed Ranking	2007 Median Download Speed (kbps)	2007 Median Upload Speed (kbps)	2007 Download Speed Ranking
South Carolina	1,971	2,849	382	14	2,338	332	14
South Dakota	411	2,222	490	32	825	245	50
Tennessee	3,129	2,755	432	17	2,035	359	20
Texas	12,612	2,526	435	22	1,509	369	37
Utah	1,369	2,324	742	30	1,323	499	43
Vermont	673	1,890	490	38	2,005	366	21
Virginia	8,004	5,033	837	4	2,394	560	11
Washington	4,537	3,016	697	10	2,176	362	18
West Virginia	2,286	1,987	271	37	1,117	288	49
Wisconsin	3,841	2,372	436	28	1,551	326	34
Wyoming	417	1,325	393	48	1,246	485	48
Unknown	40,473	1,131	285		1,482	387	

July 11, 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Vice Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Stevens, Chairman Dingell and Ranking Member Barton:

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for Congressional action to promote greater availability and adoption of broadband high-speed Internet services.

The leading bills pending before Congress (S. 1492, the Broadband Data Improvement Act and H.R. 3919, the Broadband Census of America Act of 2007) would improve information-gathering about current broadband deployment and assist in targeting resources to areas in need of such services. A recent FCC order requires more focused broadband data collection from broadband providers but does not address other important broadband mapping elements contained in the pending legislation.

We believe Congress should adopt legislation this year that provides federal government support for state initiatives using public-private partnerships to identify gaps in broadband coverage and to develop both the supply of and demand for broadband in those areas. The ability to accelerate deployment and adoption by bringing together government, broadband providers, business, labor, farm organizations, librarians, educators, and consumer groups in public-private partnerships is greater than the ability of these diverse players standing alone.

Adopting a national policy to stimulate subscription where it is already available, and deployment where it is not, could have dramatic and far-reaching economic impacts. For example, a Connected Nation study released February 2008 estimated the total annual economic impact of accelerating broadband across the nation to be more than $134 billion. In addition to the $134 billion total benefit, the study found that increasing broadband adoption by another seven percent could result in:

- **$92 billion** through an additional 2.4 million jobs per year created or retained;
- **$662 million** saved per year in reduced healthcare costs;
- **$6.4 billion** per year in mileage savings from unnecessary driving;

- **$18 million** in carbon credits associated with 3.2 billion fewer pounds of CO2 emissions per year in the United States; and
- **$35.2 billion** in value from 3.8 billion more hours saved per year from accessing broadband at home.

We cannot afford to let another year go by without adopting policies that will stimulate the economy in such ways, while expanding use of the networks that are already deployed and providing broadband in previously underserved areas. That is why we urge you to work in a bipartisan, bicameral way to enact federal legislation this year.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

AT&T
Alliance for Public Technology
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Library Association
Cablevision
Charter Communications
The Children's Partnership
Comcast
Communications Workers of America
Connected Nation
Cox Communications
EDUCAUSE
Embarq
Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance
Information Technology Industry Council
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Internet Innovation Alliance
NIC, Inc.
National Cable and Telecommunications Association
National Farmers Union
The National Grange
National Rural Health Association
Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies
Qwest
Time Warner Cable
U.S. Cattlemen's Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United States Telecom Association
Verizon
Western Telecommunications Association
Windstream

Marine sees birth, thanks to 6,000-mile Web hookup

BY JENNY MERKIN AND OWEN MORITZ
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Thursday, July 10th 2008, 4:58 PM

He was 6,000 miles from Brooklyn, but Marine Lance Cpl. Michael Cintron got a glimpse of his newborn son before his wife did.

"Hi, I'm your daddy," Cintron announced to his minutes-old son. "Look, your nose is squishy."

In a remarkable four-hour Web cast from a maternity ward at Maimonides Medical Center, mom Jeannine Cintron's delivery of son Michael James Cintron was beamed clear across ocean and land to his 26-year-old father in Iraq.

The baby weighed in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces and the new dad weighed in with a fatherly shriek: "Look! He's looking at me!"

In Maimonides' first-ever video conference of a baby delivery, Cintron first heard the baby's heartbeat.

"What's that knocking sound I hear," laughed the Staten Island native.

Then the camera followed as Jeannine was wheeled into an operating room to undergo a C-section on Tuesday. That's when the Marine got to see the baby emerging from his wife's womb.

"He got to see our son first from 6,000 miles away," Jeannine marveled. "He actually saw the baby before I did. They put the Webcam up to the side with the baby."

The video conference was initiated by a nonprofit organization called Freedom Calls, which arranged with Maimonides for covering little Michael's birth.

The proud parents were still in a state of disbelief Wednesday, not only about the birth of their first child, but the electronic wizardry that gave dad a real-time maternity-room experience.

"This is surreal," Jeannine said. "I didn't expect this. I feel so blessed. There are so many women in my situation that don't have this.

"I didn't know what I was in for," she added. "It's only my first baby.

"Pretty much throughout my entire pregnancy, I was most sad about doing it [birth] by myself," she went on. "Delivering by myself was horrifying. No, he couldn't hold my hand, but he was there for hours."

Jeannine, 25, who works in sales for Clear Channel and hails from Sheepshead Bay, and Michael, 26, a sanitation worker from Staten Island assigned to First Supply Battalion S6, were married last year.

The couple found out Michael was going to Iraq only a few weeks after they learned Jeannine was pregnant.

"I think I'll keep him [the baby]," the ecstatic mom said.

For more information on how to donate to the Freedom Calls Foundation, visit www.freedomcalls.org

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