



Broadband Glossary

ADSL broadband—the predominant broadband platform in the Australia, connecting 90 per cent of premises. Links to the premises via the copper telephone line, although it only provides speeds of between 2Mbps and 8Mbps.

ADSL2+ broadband—a faster version of ADSL providing speeds up to 20Mbps.

Backhaul—the process of transmitting data from multiple remote points to a central telecommunications backbone (e.g. from country telephone exchanges to a capital city or international Internet gateway).

Bandwidth—the speed at which data is transmitted

Broadband—high speed always-on Internet access

Broadband Network—has three interlocking components:

1. the backbone infrastructure to transport data around the country and the world (highways);
2. the network that connects various exchanges to the backbone infrastructure (middle mile); and
3. access to end users that connect households and businesses to the nearest exchange (often referred to as the 'last mile' or 'local loop').

Cable broadband—Pay TV cable can also provide high speed broadband of up to 17 Mbps. The cables pass 2.7 million homes in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

Dial up Internet—connection to the Internet via a telephone line; very slow speeds; preceded broadband.

DSLAMs—the equipment that telecommunications companies install in an exchange to provide their own services (e.g. ADSL2+).

Fibre-to-the-Home—extending fibre all the way to the premises

Fibre-to the-Node—replaces copper between the telephone exchange and a cabinet on the street (node) with fibre optic cables; still relies on copper for connection to the premises, that is, the last mile.

Kilobit per second (Kbps)—a measure of bandwidth capacity or transmission speed, representing a thousand bits per second.

Megabit per second (Mbps)—a measure of bandwidth capacity or transmission speed, representing a million bits per second.

Satellite broadband—data transmitted via a satellite to a receiving dish and into a premise to a computer.

Unbundled Local Loop (ULL)—a regulated service that enables wholesale providers to connect their own broadband equipment to Telstra’s copper access network.

WiMAX—stands for Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access. It is a wireless technology that provides high-speed broadband connections over long distances. It is not a mobile platform—it is specifically designed for optimum broadband performance. It is internationally recognised as a technology that delivers the highest quality wireless broadband.

Wireless broadband—data transmitted over the airwaves to a receiving dish and into a premise through a wireless router to a computer.

3G mobile—third generation mobile phones capable of receiving voice, data and video (so called “triple play”).