



Internet Basics: Broadband



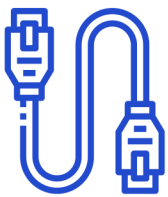
What is Broadband? Broadband refers to high-speed internet access that is always on and is significantly faster than dial up internet. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines broadband as an internet connection with a download speed of 25 Megabits per second and an upload speed of 3 Megabits per second.

Are Broadband and Wi-Fi the same thing? No. Broadband is the actual internet connection afforded by your internet service provide which you can access with your modem. Wi-Fi is a wireless connection between your devices and your router to access the internet.

- **Modem** - a box that connects your home network to your internet service provider (ISP).
- **Router** - a box that lets all your wired and wireless devices use that internet connection at once.
- **Gateway** - a single box that combines the functionality of both modem and router into one. This is the most commonly used option as it is a single device that is easier to install.

Types of Broadband Service

There are several types of broadband service which vary in both speed and cost. Each type of service uses different technologies to get the data to someone's home and their availability depends on where someone lives. Here are 6 types of broadband service.



Cable

Uses the same coaxial cable that bring **cable television** into the home.



Fiber

Uses fiber optic cables to transmit data using light rather than electricity.



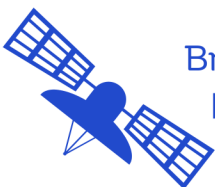
DSL

DSL is a high speed internet connection that works through existing **telephone** lines.



Mobile

Wireless Internet access designed to use on-the-go with portable devices.



Satellite

Broadband service provided by satellites orbiting the earth. This is the least common type of broadband.



Fixed Wireless

Fixed Wireless Internet is broadcast from towers through airwaves to receivers installed at a user's property.