

VISUAL NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2010

INTERNET SPEED OPTIONS

When High Speed Internet Access first came out there was typically only a single speed available. Now with the influence of new technology and the marketing department there can be 5 or 6 different performance levels available. With Rogers, for example, you can subscribe to Ultra-Lite, Lite, Express, Extreme, Extreme-Plus or Ultimate Service each with very different performance levels.

We recently upgraded our service to Rogers Ultimate to get the best performance in Downloads and Uploads that was available. Since we are often re-installing Windows and other software and updates on computers we repair, the increased performance makes a substantial difference in the time it take to complete a full re-installation of a PC.

Rogers Ultimate boasts Downloads as fast as 50mb/sec and Uploads to 2mb/sec. Downloads tend to be accentuated since most Internet traffic is in the form of downloads.

Whether increasing the speed of your Internet Service makes sense or not depends on the frequency of data that you download and to a lesser extent the volume of Internet Browsing and E-Mail that takes place in your work environment. Occasional users may find a middle of the road solution to be adequate. Again in the case of Rogers the middle of the road level cost \$60. while the top of the line was \$100. monthly so the performance boost was deemed to be worth the investment.

We are often involved upgrading anti-virus and systems software after hours and in this case faster downloads means less time spent performing these services resulting in a small reduction in expenses once or twice a year.

If you are interested you can contact your Internet Provider to see what levels of services are available should you wish to upgrade.

WIRELESS BRIDGING / REPEATING

When we upgraded our Internet Service to Rogers Ultimate we realized that the old cable that linked the Rogers Router to the main network was causing severe performance degradation. We could have remedied this by running a new CAT-6 Ethernet Cable but that would have been difficult as the Router and Home Network are on different floors and at opposite ends of the house. For this reason we chose to utilize a Wireless Repeater to link the 2 separate devices wirelessly. This was accomplished without too much trouble and has proved to be fairly quick and reliable.

This same technology could be used to link different buildings/networks within 100 to 200 feet or so of each other without the necessity of running cable. This can work between an existing Wireless router using a DAP-1360 as a Wireless Repeater or between two matched DAP-1360 units forming a Wireless Bridge. Additional units can be deployed as necessary to extend the wireless range of the network. The flexible D-Link DAP-1360 units cost \$80.

ADVANCED SYSTEM CARE

While reviewing the most frequently downloaded programs of the year we came across one called Advanced System Care. This free utility performs a number of functions that otherwise would need to be done individually and can make monthly computer tune-ups an easy task for the average user. We are in the process of implementing the free product at a number of sites and so far the feedback has been good.

Let us know if you would like us to combine this service into an annual computer system upgrade and tune-up. This program goes a long way in helping your computer offset the typical age related slowing down of Windows. Older computers can likewise recognize performance benefits from a Memory Upgrade.