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# Measuring Broadband America

February 2013 Report

# Overview

- MBA is managed by the FCC
- Measures ISPs' actual broadband speeds and publishes the results in annual reports
- Originated from the National Broadband Plan
- Makes it easier for consumers to compare ISPs when making choices about service

# 3 MBA Reports

- February 2013 report
  - ◆ Sept 2012 data
- July 2012 report
  - ◆ April 2012 data
- Aug 2011 report
  - ◆ March 2011 data
- Plan to repeat testing every year in Sept and issue an annual report

# Strategy

- An ongoing, rigorous, nationwide study of residential broadband performance in the US
- Actual performance tests for thousands of subscribers of ISPs serving over 80% of the residential market
- First broad-scale study of actual consumer broadband performance throughout the US
- Focuses on four ISP delivery technologies: DSL, cable, fiber, and satellite

# Methodology

- Measurement hardware and software was deployed in the homes of thousands of volunteer consumers
- Measurements were taken for multiple time periods, but the report focuses on “peak period usage”
  - ◆ Weeknights, 7:00-11:00 pm, local time
- Focuses on those elements of the Internet pathway under the direct or indirect control of a consumer’s ISP on that ISP’s own network

# 3 Primary Findings

1. Many ISPs continue to closely meet or exceed the speeds they advertise.
2. Consumers are continuing to migrate to faster speed tiers.
3. Satellite broadband has made significant improvements in service quality.

# Other Major Findings

- ISPs, on average, delivered 97% of advertised speed during peak hours
  - ◆ This represents little change from the July 2012 report
  - ◆ Exception: one service provider improved performance by 13%
- Delivery of advertised speeds varied by technology

# Download Speeds

- DSL delivered 85% of advertised
- Cable delivered 99% of advertised
- Fiber-to-home delivered 115% of advertised
- Satellite delivered 137% of advertised

# Upload Speeds

- DSL delivered 99% of advertised
- Cable delivered 108% of advertised
- Fiber-to-home delivered 108% of advertised
- Satellite delivered 161% of advertised
- Upload performance is much less affected than download performance during peak periods

# Mobile MBA

- Plan to conduct testing on mobile broadband performance in 2013
- Will release a separate report on MBA in mobile environment
- Mobile MBA presents different technical challenges than fixed MBA
- Technology permits mapping of service areas and speeds, and enables us to highlight broadband dead areas
- Privacy is a heightened issue with mobile

# Next Steps

- Fixed MBA: Implement another 1-month testing period for broadband and release an updated report in 2013
- Mobile MBA: Conduct testing on mobile broadband performance and release a separate report on MBA in the mobile environment
- Evolution of existing test platforms to conduct more specialized studies that can help identify other areas of broadband network performance that impact consumer experience



<http://www.fcc.gov/measuring-broadband-america>