

What Do These Terms Mean?

Facilities-based provider

An entity is a “facilities-based” provider of fixed broadband connections if any of the following conditions are met: (1) it owns the portion of the physical facility that terminates at the end-user premises or obtains the right to use dark fiber or satellite transponder capacity as part of its own network to complete such terminations; (2) it obtains unbundled network elements (UNEs), special access lines, or other leased facilities that terminate at the end-user premises and provisions/equips them as broadband; or (3) it provisions/equips a broadband wireless channel to the end-user premises over licensed or unlicensed spectrum.

Note that the facilities-based provider of the broadband connection may—or may not—sell the end user the Internet access service that is delivered over that broadband connection.

Broadband connections

Broadband connections are wired “lines” or wireless “channels” that terminate at an end-user location and enable the end user to receive information from and/or send information to the Internet at information transfer rates **exceeding 200 kbps in at least one direction**.

Advertised speeds

For purposes of this form, the terms “advertised speeds” or “advertised bandwidths” are to be distinguished from “theoretical capacity” or other engineering-based concepts that do not represent the downstream and upstream bandwidths that the end user reasonably may expect to receive. “Advertising” is not restricted to “on the web,” “in print,” “by broadcast,” “in person,” or any other specific format. Among other methods, a service is “advertised” to the end user when it is described at point of sale or when the end user is charged at a rate associated with a particular grade of service in the end user’s area. The grade of service may be characterized by, among other features, the downstream and upstream bandwidths that the end user may reasonably expect to receive.

End user

An “end user” is a residential, business, institutional, or government entity that uses services for its own purposes and does not resell such services to other entities. For the purposes of this form, an Internet Service Provider (ISP) is not an end user of a broadband connection.

End-user premises

“End-user premises” is a building, store, shop, apartment, or other structure, or group of structures, occupied by or under the control of an end user.

Available

For the purposes of this form, fixed broadband connections are “available” in a census block if the provider does, or could, within a service interval that is typical for that type of connection—that is, without an extraordinary commitment of resources—provision two-way data transmission to and from the Internet with advertised speeds

exceeding 200 kbps in at least one direction to end-user premises in the census block. **Clarification Notes, added September 10, 2014:** (1) Companies that would rely on the ordering or installation of a not-yet-leased circuit (including unbundled network elements defined in [47 C.F.R. § 51.319](#), TDM-based connections, or packet-based connections) to provide service in a census block not currently served should **not** treat that census block as having service available. (2) Dark fiber acquired under an Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) should be considered the “owned” facilities of the company that acquired the IRU when the dark fiber is used as part of that entity’s own system.

Census Block

Census blocks are “statistical areas bounded by visible features, such as streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks, and by nonvisible boundaries, such as selected property lines and city, township, school district, and county limits and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads.”¹ For more information, see [How Should I Format My Fixed Broadband Deployment Data?](#) and [More About Census Blocks](#).

Service Characteristics

In each census block, for each doing-business-as name (DBA), for each last-mile technology, your data should show whether consumer-grade broadband connections are available along with the maximum *advertised* downstream and upstream bandwidths (“speeds”) for consumer-grade connections, and whether business-grade broadband connections are available along with the maximum *guaranteed* downstream and upstream bandwidths for business-grade connections. For more information please see, [How Should I Format My Fixed Broadband Deployment Data?](#)

¹ See *2010 Census Summary File 1 Urban/Rural Update Technical Documentation* prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 at A-10, <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf>.