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## Report shows U.S. lags in broadband speed

As many broadband users know too well, Americans are cruising along in the curb lane of the information "superhighway" in terms of Internet speed, while paying more than their online counterparts zipping along in other countries.

A new report from the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#), which represents 30 leading democracies, shows how the United States stacks up compared with Japan, South Korea and much of Europe in terms of speed and pricing. Overall the report shows greatly differing speeds and costs, the [BBC says](#).

Japan's net users have 100Mbps lines, 10 times higher than the OECD average. Japan's fiber-optic networks also allows uploads at the same speed as downloads. That's not possible with ADSL (broadband over a telephone line) and most cable subscriptions.

Sweden, Korea and Finland also offer 100Mbps net connections, as all four countries have switched to fiber networks.

The United States's top speed lags at 40Mbps.

The report ranks Japan's price for broadband per megabit per second as the lowest in the OECD, at \$0.22, while the United States came in 13th, with \$3.18 being the cheapest megabit per second broadband connection in the nation.

The most expensive? Turkey, at \$81.13 Mbps.

Here's the [full OECD report](#) (pdf).

[Ars Technica](#) and [TGDaily](#) have picked up the story. A few weeks ago AT highlighted separate tests showing that [download speeds in the United States lag](#) the rest of the developed world.

As a counterweight to the OECD report, the [Phoenix Center for Advanced Legal & Economic Public Policy Studies](#), a free-market think tank, today released its own "Broadband Performance Index." Using different criteria to measure global broadband adoption, the report rates the United States better than the OECD does: "United States Performing Up to Expectations, but Room for Improvement Remains."

Here's the Phoenix Center's [press release](#) and its [full report](#) (pdf).

Posted by Michael Winter at 07:12 PM/ET, July 16, 2007 in Web/Tech | [Permalink](#)

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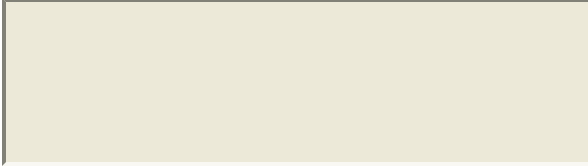
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**socialsecurity** wrote: 1d 8h ago

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**socialsecurity** wrote: 1d 8h ago

If you want to know what'll look like when America joins its Brit cousins in decline from superpower status, this is a peek. We're losing our technological edge and our profit at all cost bias means put American's second to our multinational corporations. Want great cell phones? Go to Japan or France!

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**Capt. America** wrote: 1d 8h ago

True gfoley, Dubya and the "Duybaneers" have stunted American innovation and growth--manily by outsourcing most of our tech jobs and insourcing cheap tech workers via H1B visas...it'll take some time to undo what those imbeciles have done...but we'll rebound--I still believe in American ingenuity. :-)

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**rainman** wrote: 1d 10h ago

Hey give us some credit...we invented the frickin PC didn't we?

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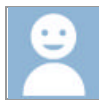
**gfoley** wrote: 1d 10h ago

it's like everything about the US now days. once a great country with innovation and a government which regulated industries so we wouldn't be ripped off, George Bush and the corporate greed he has fostered has turned us into a third rate country which only seems to care about IRAQ and blowing stuff up. we are done.

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**Frank D.** wrote: 1d 11h ago

I pay \$49.95 monthly for cablevision internet service in New Jersey. It's a total rip-off and I'm going to cancel.

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**DanWilson** wrote: 1d 11h ago

Manufacturers replaced so called "high speed" copper cables with fiberoptic waveguide in the mid-to-late 1980s to achieve the bandwidths needed for truly robust data communications. Yet twenty plus years later the lesson escapes us -- billions of dollars are still being wasted on copper technologies in residential neighborhoods and businesses. The technically competent leadership needed to install a comprehensive national network of fiberoptic and wireless networks has never surfaced, and thus our 21st Century infrastructure is still being financed via a piecemeal, hope-for-the-best free market approach. Imagine how dysfunctional the interstate highway system would function if President Eisenhower had developed it this way. Visit [www IndustrialAgeGovernance dot com](http://www.IndustrialAgeGovernance.com) to learn more.

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**Srvivr22** wrote: 1d 11h ago

Hello ??? could it be that we have the most users???

Top 15 Online Populations by Country, Among Visitors Age 15+\*

March 2006

Total Worldwide – All Locations

Source: comScore World Metrix

Worldwide Total  
694,260

United States  
152,046

China  
74,727

Japan  
52,100

Germany  
31,813

United Kingdom  
30,190

South Korea  
24,645

France  
23,884

Canada  
18,996

Italy  
16,834

India  
16,713

Brazil

13,186

Spain  
12,452

Netherlands  
10,969

Russia  
10,833

Australia  
9,735

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**olegeiser** wrote: 1d 11h ago

First time I have ever heard Japan has the cheapest of anything. I doubt they have much time for surfing or space in those tiny boxes for computers.

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**mbspector** wrote: 1d 11h ago

You ain't seen nothing yet. Right now the net is classified as net Neutral. That means that if whether some one tries to access Wal Marts Web sight or John local store's Web sight access time will be the same for both. The Bush administration wants to change it so Web site owners will have to pay ISPs a premium for equal access. Moreover the ISPs will decide who will be afforded the privilege. So much for the little guy. Did you also know that in the last ten years ISPs have collected 50 billion dollars in special assessment fees that were supposed to be used to install fiber networks. Anybody know where the money went?

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