

Topic:

Bandwidth

Definitions:

Bandwidth – The amount of data that can be transmitted from one point to another in a fixed amount of time. For digital devices, bandwidth is usually expressed in bits per second (bps) or bytes per second.

How Much Bandwidth Do I Need?

Think of bandwidth like buying a car. The type of car you purchase depends on how you plan to use the car. If you have kids, or if you off-road, or travel long distances a lot, those are considerations that will determine which type of vehicle is the right one for you. It's the same when signing up for bandwidth to serve your internet needs. Are you going to use it just for email, for streaming videos, or transferring huge data files? Those are considerations that will determine how much bandwidth you need to purchase so that your business can properly function without buying more power than you'll ever need or use.

Here is a guide to help you determine how much bandwidth you should have:

- **Basic web surfing and email** – A simple 5 million bits per second (mbps) should work for you.
- **Web surfing, email, and occasional video streaming and online gaming for a few devices** – Consider speeds between 5 - 10 mbps.
- **Moderate HD content streaming, online gaming and downloading, with several devices** – Consider between 10 and 25 mbps.
- **Heavy HD streaming, online gaming, downloading with many connected devices** – You'd be best served with service between 25 and 40 mbps.
- **Hardcore streaming, online gaming, downloading and a large number of connected devices** – You should consider more than 40 mbps.

Having more than enough bandwidth isn't always a bad thing. Businesses thrive on fast internet, and the demand for online data and services continues to grow. The idea is to not pay for more bandwidth than you really need or will ever use.

For more information, contact: technology@allianceswla.org.