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DECEMBER 2014
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REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

New Bandwidth Policy

- No more excess usage charges
- Old usage limits are now guidelines
- Evolutionary and revolutionary changes

While Internet bandwidth usage is increasing and many ISPs are beginning to implement data usage caps, OACYS is very pleased to announce that we are eliminating overage fees!

BACKGROUND

Beginning with our pioneering local Internet service way back in 1995, OACYS has always understood that promises of "unlimited" usage, as offered by many other service providers, were simply an impossibility. There cannot be an assurance of unlimited access to what is ultimately a limited resource.



Most Internet service providers gloss over this issue, while contractual fine print defines speed and bandwidth usage restrictions.

In reality, this leaves neighbors to unwittingly compete amongst themselves for available bandwidth as they sometimes struggle with sluggish Internet performance, especially during peak primetime hours.

Fast-forward 20 years, where many users now expect to watch television and movies over the Internet – this has only exacerbated the situation.

At OACYS we've always endeavored to manage bandwidth usage through realistic and responsible limits, so that all of our subscribers could expect to receive the service they're paying for. Those who used more than their allotted plan-type limits were charged for excess usage, just like electricity, other utilities, and even fuel for our cars – the more you drive, the more you'll spend for gas.

However, excess usage charges were never intended to generate revenue. They were simply an incentive to help keep usage within reasonable limits, so that users with higher usage

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Proposed Net Neutrality Regulation

President Obama has recently backed so-called "Net Neutrality" and suggested that the FCC should closely regulate the Internet, treating it as a public utility similar to telephone service.

Critics say Net Neutrality is Obamacare for the Internet. It puts the government in charge of determining Internet pricing, terms of service, and what types of products and services can be delivered – leading to fewer choices, fewer opportunities, and higher prices for consumers. **"The Internet should not operate at the speed of government"** ... we agree.

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New Bandwidth Policy

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would not restrict the performance of their neighbors.

As wireless technology has advanced, we have also steadily upgraded equipment and capacity at our towers and subscriber sites, and we have significantly increased fiber capacity between our headquarters and the global Internet backbone.

However, government (FCC) regulation remains our primary limitation, through restrictions on wireless equipment and available frequencies – this is ultimately what prevents us from increasing tower capacities without limitation.

NEW BANDWIDTH PRIORITIZATION SYSTEM (OACYS BPS)

We're excited to announce the results of a project that's been in development at OACYS for some time.

Effective December 2014, our previous bandwidth *limits* will become new bandwidth *guidelines*. Subscribers who keep usage below their plan-type guidelines will ensure priority access during peak usage times – similar to having access to the car pool lane during freeway rush hour traffic.

However, BPS does not take effect until a tower is approaching full capacity. Prior to that condition, all users should be able to reach their rated speeds.

• **How will the new policy affect me?** If your usage was staying below *limits* in the past you would presumably be staying below *guidelines* under the new system. If you were experiencing any performance problems during peak times previously, your performance should now be improved.

If your usage was trending above limits in the past you'll still be able to exceed guidelines, but you will not be charged any excess usage fees. Your performance during peak usage times may be somewhat slower, but only if tower radios approach full load.

• **Are you throttling speed?** No. During high traffic periods the BPS system ensures that higher priority users get full speed. Those who use bandwidth at or under their plan-type guideline will have full speed available all the time.

• **Can I use Netflix or other video services?** Yes. We're eliminating excess usage fees, even if video usage is high. The only limitation will be that as you use more bandwidth, your account may drop from a higher to a lower priority.

For Basic Plan subscribers, we recommend that you do not exceed twice your bandwidth guideline, since that may drop your speed during rush hour periods. If you'll be watching Netflix or lots of video content, you may want to upgrade to our Premium Plan to reduce or eliminate buffering.

Please post your feedback at oacys.com/facebook/!

Fan Mail "OACYS recently doubled my bandwidth, increased speed, and didn't raise prices—who does that? It's great to be able to call locally instead of a foreign call center, with fast personal service!" -SS, posted on oacys.com/facebook



Tired of satellite or Clearwire? You're not alone ... many of our new OCS accounts are customers switching from satellite, DSL, Clear[wire] and others. Tell your friends and receive a referral credit for up to a month's free service.

OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Wireless Plan Types	Speeds (Mbps)		Usage Guideline	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		
	Download	Upload			Installation	Equipment Deposit	Monthly Service
<i>(Note 1)</i>					<i>All Plans</i>		
RESIDENTIAL							
Basic	1.5M	768K	20GB	5	100.00	Waived	49.95
Premium	3M	1.5M	40GB	10			79.95
BUSINESS							
Business	3.5M	3.5M	60GB	20			129.95
Professional	4.5M	4.5M	70GB	25			159.95
Corporate	6M	6M	90GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	8M	8M	120GB	40			249.95
MOUNTAINS							
Yokohl, Balch, Bear Creek		<i>(Note 2)</i>					
Alpine, Pierpoint, Nelson	1.5M	768K	20GB	5			69.95

(1) Guidelines are the recommended bandwidth usage per month. There is no charge for excess usage, but prioritization may apply during periods of peak overall usage.

(2) Add \$10 monthly rural service fee to any Residential or Business plan.

I Didn't Know That!

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