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I.T. SERVICE SOLUTIONS

## MOBILE BROADBAND/

### WHAT IS MOBILE BROADBAND?

Keeping in touch while away from the office has become critical to many businesses. Mobile broadband is a technology that uses a plug-in card or USB device to connect a laptop to the Internet via the mobile phone network.

Using the Internet, your laptop and office network can be connected via a VPN (Virtual Private Network). A VPN is a secure tunnel between the laptop and our office network.

Reasonable Internet speeds can be obtained from using the mobile phone networks as long as a good signal is available.

Both Telecom and Vodafone have offered this technology for several years with both products being comparable. In our experience the Telecom product operates at a slightly higher speed, whilst Vodafone offers more flexibility with pricing.

### WHAT CAN I USE IT FOR?

Depending on your network configuration, mobile broadband can be used for collecting your e-mail, viewing your Outlook calendar, working on Word and Excel files, or even operating your accounting software.

With the right security and servers in place, you can operate remotely almost as well as you can in the office. If you are unsure whether your network is capable of supporting remote access feel free to talk to us.

Mobile broadband is often more convenient and reliable than trying to connect to a hotel's broadband service, local wireless hotspot, or Internet Café connection. However, there are several things to watch out for.

### WHAT DOES IT COST?

Both Telecom and Vodafone offer large data plans for under \$60.00. You must ensure however that you monitor your usage carefully. Going over your data plan can be very expensive.

Be aware, neither Telecom or Vodafone offer data plans that roam overseas. This means that when travelling outside of New Zealand you will pay a much higher rate per megabyte of data. This can result in costs significantly above your regular plan charges. We have seen cases of the monthly bill exceeding \$4,000.00.

### HOW CAN I REDUCE THE COST?

There are many different programs on your computer than can contribute to your overall Internet usage. Many people using mobile broadband use it to review e-mails while away from the office, however this is often only a fraction of your data usage.

Many programs will automatically download updates from the Internet in the background without your knowledge. These programs may include:

- Microsoft Updates - often downloaded automatically to keep your computer protected. 40Mb's of updates from Microsoft could cost \$1,200.00 when overseas.
- Antivirus Software - critical to keep your computer protected, often updates will be automatically downloaded each day.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader - installed on most computers, this software will download the latest updates without your approval.
- Apple iTunes - increasingly common on many computers with automatic updates. A recent update was over 100Mb's!

Before buying a data card, or heading abroad be sure to talk to us first. We can assist in recommending a data plan, or disabling some of the applications mentioned above before you leave. Unfortunately with the sheer number of possible applications downloading data, we are unable to offer guarantees.



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