

Web hosting

The web hosting service enables individuals and organizations to offer their own websites, all of which are accessible via the World Wide

Web. Various hosting services are offered, the most basic offering webpage and small-scale file hosting whereby files are uploaded via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) or by means of a web interface.

Dial-up Internet services

The dial-up Internet service allows access to the Internet via a conventional telephone line and a modem, and is useful to those who travel and require an easily available cost-effective service for small-scale data transmission. Once the Internet is engaged, the phone line is no longer available to make or receive calls.

Cable Internet service

Some cable television companies provide an Internet connection service, which utilizes their cables to deliver a fast, continuous connection (connection speeds range from 500 Kbps to more than 1 Mbps).

Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)

The ISDN digital access service is delivered via existing telephone lines and offers the possibility of initializing end-to-end digital connection.

Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) services

The ADSL service uses a conventional telephone line and a modem and works by splitting the phone line into two separate channels: one for data (e.g. Internet) and the other for voice (phone calls), thus allowing simultaneous data and phone use. This service is available in Kenya in the following upload/download bandwidth ranges.

- 32/128 Kbps
- 64/256 Kbps
- 128/1MB
- 512/2MB

Wireless Internet services

There are a number of wireless Internet services, such as;

iBurst: a mobile broadband wireless access system, which offers high performance, high speed, secure, mobile wireless access for business, home and office applications. iBurst offers: up to 1 Mbps data connectivity; wide area wireless access; continuous connectivity; enhanced security.

Worldwide inter-operability for Microwave Access (WiMAX)

WiMAX is a third generation protocol for wireless communications that makes more efficient use of bandwidth and better avoidance of interference.

Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi)

Wi-Fi is a wireless data network, which allows Wi-Fi enabled devices (such as PCs or mobile phones) to connect to the Internet when they are in the vicinity of the wireless data network.

General Packet Radio Service GPRS

GPRS is a packet-based wireless communication service, which provides continuous Internet connection for mobile phone users.



High-Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA)

HSDPA is a new mobile telephone data transmission protocol, which is technically known as 3.5G. Essentially, it offers download speeds on a mobile phone, which are equivalent to those offered on an ADSL Line.

Enhanced Data-rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE)

EDGE is a faster version of the standard GSM wireless service, which is based on GSM standards while using TDMA technology.

Wireless technology for mobile phones

The two most common types of wireless phone technology currently in use in Kenya are: GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) and CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access).

GSM technology

GSM is a second-generation wireless telecommunications standard for mobile cellular services.

CDMA technology

CDMA digital wireless technology employs a special coding scheme (whereby each transmitter is assigned a specific code), which allows multiple users to share common access to the network.

Third Generation (3G) technology

3G technology is the newest and most innovative form of communicational technology and offers high data transfer rates, wide bandwidth and increased capacity, all of which are required to support: Internet access, multimedia applications, global roaming and access to such things as: sports news, weather updates, horoscopes, competitions, films, video messages, and online gaming.

VSAT services

The services that can be made available through VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) include:

- Electronic mail.
- WAN/LAN networking.
- Broadband Internet/Intranet access.
- Automatic teller machine interconnection.
- Electronic point of sale terminal interconnection.
- Credit card verification.
- Multimedia service delivery.
- Distance learning and training.

Internet terms

Bandwidth: a measure of the information carrying capacity (rate/speed) of a communication line that is often used as a synonym for data transfer rate - the amount of data that can be carried from one point to another in a given time period (usually a second). This kind of bandwidth is usually expressed in Bits (of data) per second (bps). **Broadband:** a data rate greater than the ISDN basic rate, this is the generic term for high-speed digital Internet connections, such as wire line, DSL or cable modems and wireless 3G technologies. Broadband service is 'always on' so dial-up is not required. Broadband is capable of supporting a variety of voice and data applications, such as voice telephony, internet access, pay TV and multimedia services. Broadband connections can be divided into two major categories: **Dedicated bandwidth:** means that the bandwidth for which you subscribed is committed to your exclusive use 24/7 and regardless of total network utilization at any given time. **Shared bandwidth:** means that the bandwidth to which you have subscribed is used collectively between yourself and other users of the same service plan. While the ISP will endeavour to achieve the minimum set speed on your service level agreement, this may only be possible when other users are few or are inactive. **Modem** (MODulator - DEModulator): a device used to connect a computer to a telephone line to enable the transmission of data through the line. **Download:** retrieval of data from another computer via a communications link. **Upload:** Sending of data to another computer via a communications link.