# Twelve Tips to Boost Your Broadband Speed

THE THE TOUR LEGISTER TO THE PROPERTY OF THE P

# Welcome from the Editor

At **broadband.co.uk** we know that the most common problem that broadband users have is with the speed of their connection. With this in mind we have put together this helpful guide to help you make the most of your broadband connection and how to squeeze the most speed out of your setup.

Edd Dawson

Editor broadband.co.uk

# ABOUT BROADBAND.CO.UK

Since 2004 we have been providing expert free impartial advice on broadband in the UK through our website at broadband.co.uk. Our price comparison calculator is fully accredited by Ofcom and contains hundreds of current broadband deals updated daily. Tools such as our speed test have helped millions of broadband consumers in the UK make the most of their connection.

broadband.co.uk

Dedicated to finding the best broadband for you

**Copyright:** All material © broadband.co.uk and may not be reproduced in whole or part without consent.

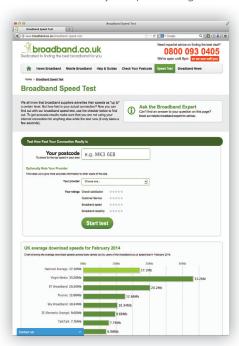
# Twelve Tips to Boost Your Broadband Speed

These 12 simple tips will help you make sure you get the maximum speed out of your broadband connection.

# 1 CHECK YOUR SPEED

The first thing you should do is check your current broadband speed and how it compares to the figure that your broadband supplier promised you.

You can check your speed using the



speedtest tool at **broadband.co.uk/ broadband-speed-test/** which will tell you your download speed, upload speed and ping result (the lower the number for the ping result the more responsive your connection is).

If you enter your postcode before running the test the results will also tell you what kind of speeds you should be getting in your area, so you can easily see how much room for improvement you have.

If you find your speeds are a good deal lower than that promised by your broadband provider then you should contact their technical support to see f they can make any changes to your connection to improve your speeds.

# 2 AVOID TELEPHONE EXTENSION CABLES

Anything that causes interference on your telephone line has the side effect of degrading your broadband speed, the worst offender is telephone extension





cables. Avoid the use of telephone extensions at all costs.

Always plug your router into your master phone socket and never into any kind of extension, this will ensure you get the best possible connection, remove interference and boost broadband speeds.

If you need to wire a computer directly to the phone line then buy a long ethernet cable to connect to the router rather than using a telephone extension cable to get the router closer to it.

# FIT A BT ACCELERATOR

A BT Accelerator (also known as an iPlate) is a device that fits onto your BT master socket and eliminates electrical interference caused by your internal phone wiring.

It can improve speeds by up to 1.5Mb per second after fitting so is well worth investigating.

Visit bt.com/accelerator to find out if you need an accelerator (you may already have one fitted) and find details of how to order one if required, at the time of writing they are supplied free to BT customers.

#### 4 USE MICROFILTERS

Make sure every telephone connected in your house is fitted with a microfilter. These little devices prevent interference from connected phones causing problems with your broadband.

A faulty microfilter can cause big problems with your broadband connection, if you suspect you have a faulty microfilter then unplug all the telephones and their microfilters in your house and see if your broadband connection improves.

Also ensure any other devices that connect to your telephone line, such as fax machines, also have a microfilter.

#### 5 MOVE YOUR WIRELESS ROUTER

Your wireless signal strength is affected by the walls and furniture in your house, the more objects between your router The most common cause of broadband problems are telephone extension cables, avoid using them if you can.

and your device the weaker the signal may be. The weaker the signal the slower the speed you'll get.

Try to place your wireless router as high up as possible, such as on a table or shelf, and as centrally located in your property as you are able. Don't place it on the floor under a desk and keep it away from power sockets and other wireless devices.

#### CHECK FOR VIRUSES

Computer viruses will use use your broadband connection to download and upload data from your PC, usually very aggressively. This will have the side effect of making your broadband speeds seem to drop, sometimes significantly.

Ensure that all the computers in your house have up to date virus protection installed and that you are running an effective firewall on all machines to remove and prevent any virus infections.

#### **CHANGE THE CHANNEL**

A common cause of wireless interference is from your neighbour's wireless networks. The more networks in range the more interference is likely.

ON AGAIN You can easily The old advice of turn it off and on again will resync with your improve your connection speed.



reduce this by changing the channel that your router users from the default setting.

We recommend trying channel 1 as this is usually not used as a default channel by most routers and is most likely not to be used by any of your neighbours.

Your router's manual will have instructions on how to change your wireless channel.

### O TURN IT OFF AND

for computers can sometimes work just as well for your router. A quick restart of your router can sometimes do wonders for your speeds. It's best to switch off the power and leave it for 30 to 60 seconds. When you power the router back on your router telephone exchange and can potentially

#### O GO WIRED

The very best speeds are always going to be achieved by using a wired connection instead of wireless.

Connect your PC to your router using an Ethernet network cable (you can get these from all good computer shops) and you can use a cable up to 100 metres long which should be long enough for most houses.

#### REPLACE YOUR ROUTER

If you've had your current router for more than a couple of years then it might be worth upgrading to a new model. Newer routers are better designed for getting the maximum range and power out of your wireless network and many are "dual-band" which is less likely to suffer from congestion from your neighbours wi-fi.

Many new models also have intelligent antenna that detect the wireless devices in your house and direct the signal at them giving a better connection and increased speeds.

# 11 CHANGE YOUR DNS

Your router will use your broadband providers Domain Name System (DNS) Server to translate website URL's to physical internet addresses (think of it like a giant phonebook for website addresses).

However some broadband providers DNS servers aren't always as fast as they could be, so switching to a different DNS server can often give improved speeds.

The two we recommend and OpenDNS and Google Public DNS. To change your DNS server in Windows do the following:

- Click Start
- Go to Control panel > Network and Internet > Network and sharing Center
- Click Change adapter settings
- Right click your network connection and select properties
- Change the preferred and alternate server details to: 208.67.222.222 and 208.67.220.220 to use OpenDNS or
- 8.8.8.8 and 8.8.4.4 to use Google Public DNS

# 12 CHANGE YOUR BROADBAND PROVIDER

Not all broadband providers are equal, and it may be that your broadband speeds are slow because of a poor quality of service from your current provider.

Switching to a different provider can often lead to better speeds.

Again the broadband speedtest tool at **broadband.co.uk/broadband-speedtest** is a great place to see who has the fastest deals in your area.

Simply provide your postcode when running a test and the results page will show you who offers the fastest deals in your area.

Switching suppliers could see you getting speeds that make your broadband experience much more enjoyable and stress free! Your quickest route to faster broadband is often to switch suppliers or upgrade your package.

