UK Broadband Speedtest Results August 2009

This press release gives the aggregated speedtest results from tests carried out by site users at www.broadband.co.uk for August 2009.

Average download & upload speeds - August 2009		
ISP	Average Download speed (Mbps)	Average Upload Speed (Mbps)
AOL	2.258	0.318
Be and O2*	5.665	0.754
BT	2.963	0.348
Eclipse	2.681	0.401
Orange	2.676	0.381
Plusnet	2.869	0.357
Sky	3.400	0.407
Talk Talk	3.360	0.460
Tiscali	2.928	0.341
Virgin Media	7.243	0.489
All providers	**4.331**	**0.423**

* Note that although O2 and Be share a common infrastructure they are separate trading entities

During August 2009 Virgin Media have yet again extended their lead as the UK's fastest broadband supplier being the first ever supplier to blow through the 7Mbps barrier. However O2 have also made gains this month so the gap to second place stays around 1.5Mbps.

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Average download speeds split by time of day – August 2009			
ISP	Overnight (00:00 to 08:00) Average download speed (Mbps)	Daytime (08:00 to 18:00)Average download speed (Mbps)	Evening (18:00 to 00:00)Average download speed (Mbps)
AOL	2.211	2.428	1.992
Be and O2*	6.192	5.853	5.300
BT	3.253	3.075	2.725
Eclipse	3.750	2.549	2.463
Orange	3.208	2.625	2.631
Plusnet	3.045	2.576	3.139
Sky	3.975	3.417	3.238
Talk Talk	3.583	3.544	3.067
Tiscali	2.914	3.079	2.724
Virgin Media	7.806	7.589	6.656
All providers	4.958	4.416	4.053

Our average speed by time of day shows how the average broadband speed is heavily influenced by the time of day (and therefore likely level of network congestion).

The overnight levels show a significantly higher average speed than the evening peak period, with daytime use between the two. This clearly shows the effects of network congestion on the average broadband connection at peak hours.

Virgin again hold the top slots in all 3 time periods, with the average daytime speed breaking the 7Mbps barrier for the first time. AOL are again limp in to last place in all three categories with the evening result being especially poor at under 2Mbps.

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Average throughput achieved by Suppliers

When a user has carried out a speedtest and provided us with their postcode we can work out the throughput as a percentage of the maximum speed we would expect them to achieve. So a user we expect to have a maximum speed of 4Mbps and who tests as 4Mbps gets a 100% throughput result.

ISP	Average throughput (as % of expected maximum speed)
AOL	54%
Be	121%
BT	63%
Eclipse	49%
O2	109%
Orange	62%
Plusnet	63%
Sky	75%
TalkTalk	78%
Tiscali	59%
Virgin Media – ADSL	111%
Virgin Media – fibre optic	149%
All suppliers	85%

As this test relies on users to select their own suppliers we can differentiate between O2 and Be, and also Virgin Media users using ADSL or fibre optic connections.

As some suppliers use ADSL2+ or fibre optic technology then they can achieve speed ratios of over 100% and this is to be expected.

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About the broadband.co.uk speedtest results

- Our results are taken from our website users performing speedtests using our speedchecker at http://www.broadband.co.uk/broadband-speed-test/
- We record tens of thousands of speedtests every month.
- Unlike other speedtest services we record the Internet Service Provider (ISP) by IP address making our ISP recording very accurate rather than relying on self selection
- We pick out the following ISP's for reporting every month
  - AOL
  - Be Broadband and O2 (O2 and Be are separate trading entities; however they share a common infrastructure)
  - BT
  - Eclipse
  - Orange
  - Plusnet
  - Sky
  - TalkTalk
  - Tiscali
  - Virgin

About broadband.co.uk

- We are one of the original broadband information and comparison sites having been launched in 2004
- With well over 1 million visitors per year we are the UK's leading source of broadband information and advice
- We provide beginners guides to all areas of broadband along with discussion forums, speedtester and broadband postcode lookup functionality
- We provide a unique free "Ask the expert" service where our broadband expert answers any query related to broadband, technical, comparison and related

For more information contact Fiona Conner on 0115 959 6460 or email press@broadband.co.uk