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NETWORKING THE
COMMUNITY
SINCE 1982

Responsible network management

Another Valley WISP (*"Wireless Internet Service Provider"*) has been advertising on the radio for quite some time. Their ads are sometimes educational, but they don't quite tell the whole story regarding bandwidth usage.

When cellular providers like AT&T and Verizon began to impose data usage (bandwidth) caps on their smart phone plans, the Valley WISP modified their ads to state that they deliver superb service while never imposing bandwidth limits.

More recently, the ads began explaining that while some providers claim they don't impose bandwidth limits, they may instead "throttle" user speeds in order to contain excess bandwidth usage by another means. Again, the Valley WISP stated that they never throttle speeds but still provide great service.

The thing is, you can't have it both ways, since there is no such thing as an unlimited supply of bandwidth.

If a wireless service provider does not impose any kind of usage control, then their network's performance will essentially be controlled by their customers.

GOOD & RELIABLE
PERFORMANCE
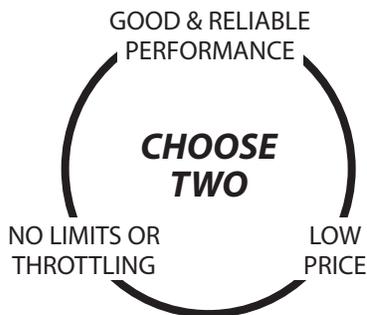
*CHOOSE
TWO*

NO LIMITS OR
THROTTLING

LOW
PRICE

In other words, those customers who have high-usage needs or habits – if there are no limits of any kind – will unavoidably slow service to themselves as well as to all others who share the same tower.

Some services either start throttling a user's speed upon reaching a certain bandwidth usage point, or they may actually disable the user's Internet access for a day or even for the remainder of the month.

OCS does not throttle*, nor do we disable or in any way restrict service upon reaching the bandwidth limit for each plan type. Instead, we apply an excess usage charge for overages**, and we provide a way for users to monitor their actual bandwidth usage. This creates a user-managed incentive to control usage, without sacrificing the quality of their own service or the service to other customers.

In custom cases and only by individual user request, OCS can apply gradual throttling in order to avoid exceeding bandwidth limits and excess usage charges.

**When excess bandwidth is available on a specific tower, additional bandwidth may be purchased at a low-cost rate compared to excess usage charges.*

INDEPENDENCE DAY

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The OCS home page has received over 17 million hits – contact us for local advertising information!

OCS service plans are described at www.porterville.com

Internet Plans and Pricing

Call about eCommerce!

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THE *NATIONWIDE* OCS REFERRAL PROGRAM
If you refer a friend, family, or business associate to OCS, tell them to mention your name and you'll receive up to a month of free service! **Our subscribers have earned $68,238 so far** – click *Referrals* on our home page for details! Your friends may simply click *Subscribe* to apply for service online.

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Facebook vs NSA: Which is worse?

Data collection, regardless who is doing it, is a potentially dangerous genie when let out of the bottle

by David Gewirtz, June 24, 2013. Excerpted from ZDNet.com, www.zdnet.com/facebook-vs-nsa-which-is-worse-7000017178

Do you read the usage agreements when you sign up for a new online service? Most people don't.

If they did, they'd be rather concerned. In Facebook's Data Usage Policy, for example, Facebook freely admits it catalogs information like your IP address, the pages you visit, your GPS location, and — of course — all your friends and relationships.

Facebook certainly doesn't stop there. Any web site that features a Facebook "Like" button or has any Facebook widgets may report your browsing history back to Facebook. So even if you don't specifically "Like" a page, Facebook probably knows you've been there.

Facebook also gets information from advertisers, and any advertiser in its network may help gather information that's reported back to Facebook's data centers.

Needless to say, Facebook isn't alone in capturing all of this data. Google maintains a tremendous amount of analytical data. This information helps inform searches, power "Google Now," help improve translation, and so on. Of course, all of that information about you is captured and stored.

This brings us back to the recent brouhaha about government data acquisition and counter-terrorism operations. Lots of people are up in arms about just how much information about you the government captures, and what they might do with it.

Of course, there is a difference. We all clicked "I agree" on the various online service usage agreements, but we didn't okay the government doing the same thing.

At the beginning of this column, I asked which is worse, the NSA or Facebook. In [*the author's*] view, the real answer is that data collection — regardless who is doing it — is a potentially dangerous genie when let out of the bottle.

In the same way that nuclear research led to both the bomb and nuclear medicine, massive big data collection can both harm us and provide us with enormous value.

We accept as a given that Facebook needs to collect all of this data to provide us with interesting information and observations about our friends, [*but it is also*] important to accept that America's counter-terrorism agencies need to collect all the data they do for the far more serious task of protecting American lives.

Which is worse? Neither. Should all that data in any hands worry you? Heck, yeah.

Note: OCS maintains strict data privacy, but we neither endorse nor disclaim the views expressed in this article. It is simply intended to be informative.

Fan Mail

"I considered Clearwire and two local WISPs as alternatives to Hughes satellite. I spoke with several pleased customers of OCSNet and that tipped the scale. After some 4 years I'm still pleased and a happy camper." -Posted on DSLReports.com

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OACYS WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PLANS

Wireless Plan Types	Average Speeds			Monthly Usage [1]	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		Monthly Service [3]
	Min	Typ	Max			Installation	Equipment Deposit [2]	
RESIDENTIAL						*All Plans*		
Basic	125K	500K	750K	12GB	5	100.00	100.00	49.95
Premium	250K	1M	1.5M	20GB	5			79.95
BUSINESS			*NEW !*					
Business	500K	2.5M	3.5M	40GB	10			129.95
Professional	750K	3.5M	4.5M	50GB	25			159.95
Corporate	1M	4.5M	6M	60GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	1.5M	6.5M	8M	80GB	40			249.95
MOUNTAINS								
Alpine, Pierpoint, Camp Nelson	125K	375K	750K	8GB	5			69.95

1. Monthly usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.
2. Equipment deposit is fully refundable upon termination of service after one year.
3. For areas served by Blue Ridge tower, add $10 monthly rural service fee.

I Didn't Know That!

- OCS provides "A-to-Z" technology services
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- Variety of Internet access plans and packages
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- Programming and custom development
- eCommerce solutions
- Computer and Internet technology consulting
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- Internet-based "VOIP" telephone services

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