

I've had internet for 15 years in rural areas in three states. Speed is horrible, PR is misleading, service on the whole is abysmal, first level tech support is horrid, and prices are outrageous. I paid \$60 to Century Telephone for Broadband speed not any faster than 56K and I had constant line drops. A slower speed at \$40 improved nothing. The forced Local/LD bundling included \$0.15 per local call. It cost \$228 for the startup, \$80 because they did not show on the date or time I was in the town to hook it up, They came a day they new in advance I would not be living there for another month. When they finally showed up, Centel learned I had no copper pair. I paid the \$80 for no service. Disconnect for lousy service cost \$200. They got over \$1000 for dial up speeds. The WSP in Carthage MO sent a guy who put a whole in the side of my house that was unnecessary and tore up siding. Then the tech put XP software configured for their system on my W98se and blew the stack. The system never worked, They also sent virus in my mail. They did not believe, I sent it back.. They were off line for a week. It was a third party turn key mess. Cox didn't have an IT. Auto replies were funneled from France to London using my account. I had to contact France to stop the auto-bot. Suddenlink -the NJ ISP_ stated they're 10x faster than dialup. The fine print states can be as much as 10x faster than 28.8. It is not guaranteed. Rural America pays \$60-\$100 for forced bundling Internet. Metro areas pay \$25-\$40 for naked broadband speeds up to 6GB that includes free VOIP. The best deal I found is \$99 for cable channels 2-99, Broadband and 1000 min VOIP. The disparity is a national shame. Rural areas get the worst service, the slowest speeds and pay the most. Every small area I have ever lived in is controlled by AT&T. It's been that way since before Bell was allowed to merge the baby Bells with AT&T, There is no hope for equality. There is no hope for real bandwidth. I perceive that rural America will be forced off line. The only thing that has changed in rural America is broadband and the 3-5x higher prices than dialup. There is no advantage to cable over satellite or VOIP over phone. It's a shell game that looks good on paper. I can get naked wireless -except the city won't allow them in, but they allowed an antenna on the water tower for the college to use wireless. And city business can use it too. The rest of the city cannot. Where is the equity? Where is Net Neutrality? When will FCC have regulatory power and teeth? I'd say about the time pigs fly.

.

I don't know the answer but \$100 per month for poor service and lies is not it, Nor is AT&T quietly shaping bandwidth to rural areas and imposing a charge (UBB) on ISPs because I download an upgrade that is over the 1 GB limit, is not the answer. The PR spin in DC isn't helping either. It hurts seniors like me who are on a fixed income. It hurts all rural users who are suffering from ever rising grocery, gas and utility costs. I can't spend \$250 in my community. My utility bill is \$450. I will not help the economy. I can't. I can't even refinance a ARM because my SS is \$100 too much. There are too many of us in this same mess. Broadband in rural America is a pipe dream. The only beneficiary is AT&T because they control it. And our government allows it.

Y;all need to pack up your SUVs, kids and dogs and come live in rural America for a while. It will be a real eye-opener,

Amen. God Bless America and God Bless OUR Troops.

t