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The definition of broadband internet needs to be updated to reflect the fact that more than download speed is required to be able to effectively use a connection. The simple fact is that all high-speed internet connections are not created equal. If the link has too low of an upload rate, services such as online backup, telecommuting and sharing documents/home videos/large pictures is not possible. If the link latency is too high things like video conferencing, streaming video, VoIP and online gaming become impossible. If there is a data cap involved, then no matter how fast the connection is it cannot be readily used for any of these services, as they tend to consume bandwidth.

When defining "broadband", it is important to define all aspects of the connection, and it would be good for consumers for the definition to be aspirational; it should be a bar that must be climbed over, not easily walked over.

I propose broadband be at least: 25Mb download, 10Mb upload, with no more than 30ms of latency between the end user's equipment and the public internet, with a minimum of a 200GB per month cap.

This definition would exclude services such as mobile data and satellite from meeting the definition of broadband, but the simple truth is they are not substitute services for fixed wireline broadband because they do not support the applications a user expects a broadband service to support