

Willie's Wonkey Computer Factory

Is there any way I can check the speed of my Internet connection? I'm curious to know how quick it is.

Interesting question! As we all know, dial-up is being phased out and broadband connections are taking over the Internet world. So, as we all have faster connections, our curiosity may just get the best of us. Because of this, there are different speed tests users can take to find out how quick their connection runs.

Speed tests work by having your computer download a large file (either a picture or a large document) to see how long it takes for the download to complete. The test times your computer and then divides the file size by the time it took to download to come up with your connection speed. That's pretty much all there is to it.

To find a speed test, do a quick search in Google and see what you can come up with. For example, I entered "DSL speed tests" and it came up with several test choices. Once you get your results back, take some time and look through the different options and find the test that will carry out the tasks you want done.

Now, you may be wondering what a good test result is. This obviously depends on several different factors, but most consider a reading of 150 kbps (kilobits per second) and up to be a good result. Obviously, speeds will be slower if you test your bandwidth between the peak hours of the day (late afternoon and evening) because of the extra Internet usage, so it's better to test in the early morning or really late at night.

The next thing you might be wondering about is the actual reliability of a speed test. Do they really work? Well, they seem to be pretty reliable, but there are some downsides to it as well. With broadband connections, speeds are constantly changing, so it's difficult to get a clear picture of what your speed actually is. If you're not happy with the results you get, you may want to try running the test three or four times to get an average speed.

Why you should test your speed? Well, the main reason you should perform regular speed tests is to find out when your computer's connection speed is the fastest. You can then use those times to download large files or get an extra amount of work done, without interruptions or hesitations. Also, if you are having connection problems, you can use a speed test to find out if it's your computer or the connection that is slowing you down.

One last thing: keep in mind that sometimes your test results will be lower than you'd really like. The main reason for this is that you may have done a test during a slow time or even during a down time, which will alter your results. These times are usually caused by maintenance work or damaged lines. When this happens, just be patient and try it again later.

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