



# JARGON BUSTER

FIBRESPEED  
CONNECTING WALES

## A

### **ADSL**

ADSL broadband, or Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line, is the most common **broadband** type, using standard phone lines. **Bandwidth** is limited, shared with other users (so slows down if more people use it), and upload speed is much slower than download speed. FibreSpeed does not use ADSL technology and therefore avoids these limitations.

## B

### **Bandwidth (connection speed)**

This defines the ability to pass data through a computer connection. The greater the bandwidth, the more free-flowing (and therefore faster) the data passes to and from your computer.

### **Broadband**

Broadband is a permanent connection to the Internet allowing networks to carry data over existing copper wire telephone cables. Its capability is impeded by distance from the telephone exchange and the number of people using the Internet at the same time. FibreSpeed's optical fibre technology does not suffer these limitations.

## C

### **CCTV/Conferencing Applications**

FibreSpeed's high bandwidth capacity is ideal for Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) for improved security, and for video conferencing across multiple locations.

## Cloud Computing

A generic phrase used to describe a situation where IT services and software applications are delivered over the web through a standard internet browser.

## Consumer connectivity

Some FibreSpeed service providers already offer connection services for home or non-business users. Typically, these users have lower **bandwidth** requirements and don't need all the additional services associated with multiple workstations.

## Corporate VPN

VPN stands for 'virtual private network'. It's a private network with restricted access for organisations and members to use.

## Co-location

Co-location is a hosting option for businesses that want the features of a large IT department without the costs. It allows you to locate your server machine (or rent one) in someone else's rack and share their **bandwidth** as your own. You simply access the server as if it was on your own premises.

## Connectivity

This describes how you are connected to a telecommunications or Internet network.

## Connection Speed / Slow Connection

People often talk about connection speeds but it's **bandwidth** that governs how "fast" data travels to and from your computer. **ADSL broadband** is a shared service, so the more users there are, the more it slows down. And uploading – or sending data – from your computer is always slow, as standard broadband technology can't improve on this.

# D

## Data Centre Services

Data centres handle the storage, management and dissemination of data using hardware, software, processes and personnel. Using a third-party data centre handler can save your business time and money and give you peace of mind.

## Dedicated Fibre Networks

Unlike standard connections using telephone wires, which you share with other users, a FibreSpeed connection can be dedicated to your business alone, guaranteeing your business high **bandwidth** at any time of day.

## DNS

Short for Domain Name System. When you are looking for an Internet site, you type in its domain name (eg fibrespeed.co.uk) which is the public address used to find that site.

# E

## Encoding/Encryption

Because the Internet is accessible by so many people, sensitive material is 'encoded' to keep it from prying eyes. Most surfers encounter encryption when paying for goods online. It's the process of translating the data into a form unreadable by anyone other than a recipient who has the software to decode it.

## F

### Firewall

A firewall is a protective security screen that aims to prevent unwanted users getting access to a computer network. No large company with an online presence would dare operate without a firewall. The firewall also allows the network administrator to monitor what users are doing within a network.

### FTP

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is the commonly accepted standard for the process of downloading or uploading files over the Internet and sending files from one computer to another.

## G

### Gigabit

When talking about bandwidths, a gigabit refers to “gigabit per second” and is equal to a data transfer rate of 1,000 megabits or million kilobits per second. Most **ADSL broadband** delivers no more than 20 megabits per second – and often much less.

## H

### High-speed connectivity

Refers to how your business or premises are connected to the FibreSpeed network. High-speed connections can be wired or wireless using various technologies.

### Hosting

A Server, or Web Server, is an Internet-connected computer with its own **IP** Address. Software applications or very small websites can be “hosted” on an ordinary computer, but anything more sophisticated needs high speed, secure servers 24 hours a day – for a fee, a hosting company will provide these services.

## I

### Internet Service Provider (ISP)

Organisations that provide Internet-based services and connectivity to end-users. FibreSpeed’s Service Providers are ISPs.

### IP / TCP

Internet Protocol / Transmission Control Protocol (IP/TCP) are the guides that allow computers to communicate with each other when they are not joined together in an office or on a network.

### IP Address

Every computer linked to the Internet has its own address. This is called its IP address – or Internet Protocol Address. It is simply a string of numbers allowing information to be called from a specific computer and delivered to the right computer.

### ISDN

Integrated Services Digital Network. An ISDN line is a digital telephone line that allows a connection to the Internet that is faster than standard copper wires. Despite this, ISDN has largely been overtaken by **ADSL** (broadband) technology.

# L

## LAN

A LAN is a Local Area Network; a collection of computers linked together in one location for quick and secure internal communication.

# M

## Megabit

When talking about bandwidths, a megabit refers to “megabit per second” and is equal to a data transfer rate of 1,000 kilobits per second. Most **ADSL broadband** delivers no more than 20 megabits per second – and often much less.

# P

## PoP

This refers to Point of Presence. There are several of these along the FibreSpeed network where the fibre ‘breaks ground’ enabling easy connection and **co-location** services.

## POP3

Not to be confused with a PoP, Post Office **Protocol** is a protocol used by email clients to send and receive email messages.

## Portal

The term for a website that acts as a starting-point to a multitude of other sites.

## Protocol

The Internet works by allowing computers to talk to each other over a network using an agreed set of specifications, or “protocols”. Among the most commonly seen protocols are **FTP**, **SMTP** and **TCP/IP**.

## Proxy Servers

A Proxy Server is a computer that stores any page that one user has already called up from the main website and holds it in store in case anyone else wants to see it. When a subsequent user requests that page, the Proxy Server sends it straight out, instead of asking the main site to delve into its database to deliver that page all over again. ISPs set up proxy servers.

# S

## Server

Refer to **hosting**.

## SMTP

Stands for Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, the common computer language that allows different e-mail systems to talk to one another.

## Streaming

Streaming is the process by which large Media files such as video or audio are transferred swiftly across the Internet. The information is sent in small packets and these are played out in the correct order. YouTube and BBC iPlayer are common examples.

## V

### **Virtualisation**

Another word used to describe 'cloud computing' – see that entry for information.

### **Virtual Private Networking (VPN)**

VPN provides secure connections between private networks linked through the Internet. It allows remote computers to act as though they were on the same secure, local network, perfect for linking multiple sites, home-based or remote workers.

## W

### **WAN**

A wide area network (WAN) is a computer network that covers a broad area and links computers across local, regional, or national boundaries. Multi-site organisations can use them to link **LANs** together (see **LAN**).

### **WiFi**

WiFi is a type of wireless IT communications technology used in many homes and businesses. It's ideal for networking computers in a compact area.

### **WiMAX**

WiMAX is a wireless IT communications technology with two advantages over **WiFi**: users benefit from more reliable high **bandwidth**, unlike WiFi users who typically have to share bandwidth and WiMAX extends over much greater distances.



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