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Broadband Line Limit Removed

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BT Ditches Broadband Line Length Limit

Good News for Maxey

BT says it has effectively removed the limit on 512Kbps services, bringing the prospect of universal broadband coverage in the UK one step closer. Effectively, everyone in Maxey should now be able to obtain a broadband service without problem.



Until recently, it was pretty much pot-luck if you could get broadband in some parts of Maxey. A near neighbour might have it, but it was unavailable to you: very frustrating. However, after running a series of trials in broadband blackspots around the UK, BT has managed to extend the reach of its ADSL products.

At present, a 512Kbps ADSL connection usually won't work over a line longer than 6km. This means that around 4 percent of homes

and businesses - around 1,000,000 potential customers - can't get the service despite being located in an area that has been broadband-enabled by BT.

BT says it has now dropped this requirement and removed the limit imposed by the length of the line for 512Kbps services. The company says it is confident that 99.4 percent of the entire UK population will be able to get broadband via their phone line by the summer of 2005, when it will have completed its programme of upgrading local exchanges to offer ADSL.

"Who do you know who can't get the five main analogue TV channels with decent reception? That's the level of coverage we'll have," said BT Wholesale spokesman Francis King.

The remaining 0.6 percent of the population will be located in areas where BT still hasn't upgraded the local telephone exchange to support ADSL, or will have a telephone line and internal wiring that is in too poor a condition to support a high-speed connection.

BT began accepting orders from 6 September 2004 from people who have previously failed the line length test. Internet service providers are already getting ready to snap up these additional million potential customers.

As well as making 512Kbps available to virtually the whole population, the success of BT's trials also means that 1Mbps ADSL will now work over 6km - compared to a previous limit of 4km.

If you have been unsuccessful in obtaining a broadband service in the past, now is the time. See the sidebar for additional information & links.

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