

# Computer Basics Part 2 – High-Speed Internet

In these instructions we will cover the following:

- What is High-Speed Internet?
- Different types of connections
- What can the Internet do for me?
- Is the Internet safe?
- What can I do to be safe on the Internet?

Here is a list of the words you will learn in these instructions:

Internet, Internet Service Provider, ISP, DSL, Cable Internet, surf the Internet

## What is High-Speed Internet?

First off, what is the “**Internet**?” The Internet is a global network connecting millions of computers in more than 100 countries to exchange data, news, and opinions.

So what is High-Speed Internet? Connecting to the Internet requires you to sign-up with an **Internet Service Provider (ISP)**. This will give your computer the ability to connect to the vast amount of knowledge and resources you can find on the Internet. You are charged a monthly fee for this service.

## Different types of Connections

There are different ways to connect to the Internet. Some ways are faster and some are slower. The Internet is running at the same speed, but your computer may not be able to connect and communicate at the faster speed. One way, which years ago used to be common was to connect through a modem using your phone line. This way isn't used as often anymore and is very slow. The next step up is to connect with **DSL**. A DSL is a Digital Subscriber Line. In other words, it still uses the phone lines in your house and uses a special DSL modem (the part that connects your computer to the phone lines). This is fairly fast and will give most new users the cheapest and best bang-for-the-buck. Your phone company has to be able to provide DSL to you or you cannot use this option. If you live way out in the country then you probably cannot get this option. If you live in town then you probably can. Using DSL requires you to connect special filters on all of your phones which are very simple to connect. DSL allows your computer to be on the Internet at all times! There are usually different speed options you can choose. Each option that is faster is more expensive. In most cases, the slower DSL speed is all you need.

**Cable Internet** is another option. Cable may or may not be any faster than DSL, but if you live way out in the country may be your only option. Cable Internet is more expensive than DSL. It requires you to have Cable TV lines to your house. Cable Internet connects to your computer using a box called a Cable Modem.

### **What can the Internet do for me?**

The Internet provides the knowledge of the world at your fingertips. The information you are reading now is available on the Internet. You can look up information or find answers on anything you can think of. You can check news, weather, and so much more!

### **Is the Internet Safe?**

Well, the easy answer would be... No. Here is why... First, there are viruses and worse items that your computer can catch which will damage your software, but worse than that is the filth, the easily available porn, etc., that you or your child can – even accidentally – view. Should all of this cause you not to use the Internet? No. Why? Anything made by humans can be used for evil. Look at the television as an example, there are good TV shows and there are garbage. Make sure you **surf the Internet** safely. (surfing is what it is called when you look at sites on the Internet).

### **What can I do to be safe on the Internet?**

- Use a program such as Net Nanny which will track all photos and everything that is done on the computer. It will also block out sites that it deems bad. The downside of using a filtering software is that it can sometimes filter and block good sites as well.
- Do not let your children use chat rooms to chat with people they do not know.
- Teach your children about the dangers on the Internet – do not give out your personal information. Do not talk with strangers.
- Do not allow them to have a computer in their room or in any room that can allow them to be away from the family. Have the computer in the living room or family room.
- Most importantly, surf along with your kids. Know what they are viewing. Don't be afraid to read their e-mail. Their e-mail and their surfing habits should be known to you. It is not a violation of their rights, but rather good parenting for you to know.

I hope this information has been helpful to you.

You may print this information if needed.

Check [www.scottfam.us](http://www.scottfam.us) for additional information!