

Broadband - what we pay for?

Written by James Lawson
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I was reading this article on TechCentral titled: [Telkom: 'we're not expensive'](#) and thought I would do my own little investigation into the price of broadband overseas...

	Sky Broadband	Broadband Unlimited	Up to 20Mbps	Up to 1.3Mbps	unlin	
Virgin Media	L		Up to 10Mbps	£5		
Virgin Media	XL		Up to 30Mbps	£18.50		
Virgin Media	XXL		Up to 50Mbps	£25		
Demon Internet	Home 2+		Up to 20Mbps	Up to 1Mbps	50G	
Demon Internet	Home 8000		Up to 8Mbps	Up to 448Kbps	50G	
BT Broadband	More Broadband and Calls		Up to 20Mbps	40GB	£18	
BT Broadband	More Broadband and Calls		Up to 40Mbps	BT 40Mbps Broadband	Up to 2Mbps	40G
Telkom	"Super Fast" Simple		Up to 384Kbps	1GB		
Telkom	Fast		Up to 384Kbps	1GB		
Telkom	Faster		Up to 512Kbps	1GB		
Telkom	Fastest		Up to 4Mbps / 10Mbps	1GB		

Considering when you factor in the exchange rate, that the technology already exists to make use of ADSL2 locally (it works over copper?!), there really isn't much of a reason that Telkom (or rather ICASA should be regulating them more?) should be allowed to continue with their blatantly high prices!

The worst thing is, as much as there is a continual outcry over the cost of bandwidth, leased lines (since we're still bound to purchase an analog line - even if we're not going to be using it), and the way they have their sneaky advertising (have you looked at the DoBroadband packages? Package 3 says the cost is around R554, yet at the bottom they say it excludes line rental, voice and fax. Its also interesting to note that they say it includes 9GB, yet in the exclusion line they state "The local data applies after the initial 5GB data has reached its limit."

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-- this is surely false advertising?!). Also, where is the "excludes VAT".

Very deceptive advertising from a company that has already had several spats with the advertising complaints commission - wise up Telkom!