

## **Why is My Internet So Slow?**

Isn't the internet supposed to be fun? For a lot of folks it is, but for those of us with slow service it can be frustrating. There are several factors that can affect your internet speed: your internet provider, your modem, the quality of your phone line and even the time of day.

Ten years ago if you wanted internet service in Dimmitt you had one choice. But now with Amarillo being a local call and with the availability of both cable and wireless high-speed internet, we now have literally dozens of choices, some better than others.

If you still use a modem, here are some things you should know. First, make sure you have a 56K modem. Most new computers will come with one, but if you have an older computer you might want to check to make sure it is not a 33.6k or 28.8k modem. Next, if you can hear any noise in your phone line you should call the phone company and have them fix it. Noise in your phone line can adversely affect the speed of your connection. If you do have noise, you might also want to consider getting a filtered modem that can eliminate some of that noise. Most factory installed modems do not have noise filters and do poorly in Dimmitt - especially out in the country.

Your internet provider can also be a factor. Not all internet providers are created equal. If you're unhappy with your provider call a different one and ask them for a free 10-day trial account. Most of them will be happy to provide one. You might want to try out several of these and sign up with the one that does best for you.

Finally, if you're serious about surfing, you've got 2 choices in Dimmitt - wireless or cable. Both are much faster than dial-up but each has its own advantages and disadvantages. Wireless is available in a much wider area - even out in the country. However you have to have clear line of site to their tower. Cable is less expensive, but if you've got poor cable reception then your internet service may also be poor. Both services are "always on" and can support multiple computers at the same time without the use of a phone line. If you use the internet a lot, I highly encourage you to look into either of these services.