

GLOSSARY

The following is a glossary of the terms and acronyms you may encounter when dealing with fibre providers and prospective retail service providers.

- 50/50** eg 50mbps of downstream speed/50mbps of upstream speed (30/30/ 50/50/ 100/100 or Gig/Gig).
- ADSL** Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line - A DSL line where the upload and download speeds differ - the download speed is usually faster than the upload speed. See also Digital Subscriber Line (DSL). ADSL typically provides up to 8Mbps download and 1Mbps upload speeds.
- ADSL 2/ADSL2+/VDSL** ADSL2, ADSL2+ and VDSL technologies are upgraded versions of ADSL and are available only where the local exchange has been upgraded or cabinets installed. Can provide up to 24 Mbps download speeds but only for premises that are close to the exchange or cabinet.
- Bandwidth** Also known as connection speed or how fast you can send and receive data. Bandwidth defines how much data the broadband connection can send or receive per second. It is measured in bits per second (bps) or Mega bits per second (Mbps).
- Bits and Bytes**
- Bit (b)** A contraction of 'binary digit', the smallest data element in digital systems. A bit has a value of either '1' (on) or '0' (off). Note the convention that bits are abbreviated by a lowercase 'b'.
- Byte (B)**
A unit of data that is eight bits in length. Note the convention that bytes are abbreviated by an uppercase 'B'. Any character (eg the letter 'A') is represented in digital systems by one Byte of data.
- KiloByte (KB)**
One thousand (actually 1,024) bytes of information.
- Megabyte (MB)**
One million bytes of information, also expressed as one thousand Kilobytes.
- Gigabyte (GB)**
One thousand million bytes of information, also expressed as one thousand Megabytes.
- Terabyte (TB)**
One million million bytes of information, also expressed as one thousand Gigabytes.
- Broadband modem** This is the device that connects a PC to the internet. It codes the signals that are transmitted over the broadband line (and decodes those that are received).

Cabinets	A road-side cabinet on a cable route containing electronics that extend the exchange equipment to schools or where people live etc.
Cache	Storage location in a network that holds copies of the most recently requested webpages to speed up retrieval the next time one of those stored pages is requested.
CFH	Crown Fibre Holdings Limited (CFH) has been established to manage the Government's \$1.5 billion investment in Ultra-Fast Broadband infrastructure.
CIR	The committed information rate (CRI) or basic agreed speed, is the rate at which the network supports data transfer under normal operations. The CIR is measured in bits per second.
Cloud computing	A method of accessing computer software and services where the program is installed on an Internet Server and not on a person's own computer. Using software in the 'Cloud' is usually paid for on a per-use basis rather than purchasing a capital asset. Examples are Google Docs, Yahoo.
Datacap	Data cap or Usage Cap - Monthly data download limit. If your usage during a month goes over the data cap, then either the connection speed is slowed or the user is billed for the additional usage.
Data volume	Data volumes are usually quoted in terms of usage limits – the amount of data transfer (uploads and downloads) allowed within a set period (normally a month). Data limits are usually quoted in GB
Dial-up	Dial up (or narrow band) typically runs at 56Kbps download speed, or less, over a normal telephone line. The telephone cannot be used at the same time as a dial-up internet connection.
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line - a technology for bringing high-bandwidth information to homes and small businesses over ordinary copper telephone lines. xDSL refers to different variations of DSL, including ADSL, HDSL, and VDSL. See also Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL).
Download/Downstream	Data transfer from the Internet to the user
Firewall	A software barrier between any connected public network and private network that prevents unauthorised data passing through it.
ICT	Information Communications Technology.
IP	Internet Protocol, eg IP Address - a unique number assigned to every device connected to the Internet. There are two types of IP addresses – static and dynamic. Static IP addresses are permanent assigned to a device whereas dynamic addresses may change every time it connects to the Internet.
IPTV	Internet Protocol Television is television content accessed over the internet.

ISP	Internet Service Provider (or Retail Service Provider) – is a company that offers broadband service/access to the Internet. For example Xtra, Orcon, Whoosh.
LAN	Local Area Network - a computer network limited to a small area such as an office building, school, or even a residential home. Most mid to large-sized businesses today use LANs, which makes it easy for employees to share information.
LFC	Local Fibre Company
MAC	Moves-Adds-Changes are adjustments to the service.
Mbps	Megabits per second.
MED	Ministry of Economic Development – a government agency with the overall responsibility for the national roll out. The MED is also procuring and managing rural providers.
MoE	Ministry of Education – informs and supports schools through the process of connecting to and using fibre. It does not control the timeframes for the roll out, or the coverage areas.
Network	A network is a group of computers set up to communicate with one another
Network access point	The NAP is the point on a local fibre cable where the drop cable is connected.
Offsite data repository	where you store data offsite for disaster recovery and backup purposes. Alternatively, you may store all your own data on your own network
ONT	Optical Network Terminal
POI	Point of Interconnect
PIR	Peak Information Rate – the maximum rate for traffic arriving at or departing from the interface under peak line conditions. Traffic that exceeds the committed information rate (CIR) and the committed burst size (CBS) is metered to the PIR.
PON	A passive optical network (PON) is a point-to-multipoint, fibre to the premises network architecture.
Protocol	A formal description of message formats and the rules two computers must follow to exchange those messages.
Router	Router helps multiple devices to share a single broadband connection.
RFI	A Request for Information (RFI) is a standard business process whose purpose is to collect written information about the capabilities of various suppliers. Normally it follows a format that can be used for comparative purposes. An RFI is primarily used to gather information to help make a decision on what steps to take next RFIs are therefore seldom the final stage and are instead often used in combination with an Request for Proposal (RFP).

RFP	Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued at an early stage in a procurement process, where an invitation is presented for suppliers, often through a bidding process, to submit a proposal on a specific commodity or service. The RFP process brings structure to the procurement decision and is meant to allow the risks and benefits to be identified clearly upfront
RSP	Retail Service Provider - or Internet Service Provider - (RSP or ISP) The retail network service providers provide services to end users and have a direct customer relationship with them.
SD or HD	Standard (SD) or high definition (HD) is the quality of video conferencing delivery
SDP	Service Delivery Point
Server	Hardware and software that provide network services to clients
SNUP	The School Network Upgrade Project subsidises and manages upgrades of data and electrical cabling for state and state-integrated schools.
Streaming	An alternative to downloading large files such as audio and video. Streaming allows users to commence playback whilst the remaining file is downloading in the background.
Transfer speed	normally quoted in Mbps, transfer speed refers to the maximum transfer rate. Transfer rates may vary for national and international data access.
UFB	Ultra-Fast Broadband is broadband that is capable of speeds up to 100 megabits/second
UFBiS	Ultra-Fast Broadband in Schools – the Government’s programme to enable schools to connect to ultra-fast broadband. The Government’s roll out of Ultra-fast Broadband (UFB) will allow 97% of schools, serving 99.7% of students, to access speeds of up to 100Mbps by the end of 2015. Schools in areas too remote for fibre will receive an improved broadband service via satellite or alternative technology.
Upload/Upstream	Data transfer from the user to the Internet
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol is voice communications that use the internet.
WAN	Wide Area Network. A large network making up of many local area networks (LAN).
Wi-Fi	Wireless Fidelity. WiFi users can access broadband on their smart phones or laptops wirelessly.