

# How to optimize your broadband connection

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

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With the increasing amount of on-line TV video content available, it is vital that you have a fast and reliable broadband connection to watch all this content. So I have put this quick guide together to help you get the best from your on-line TV watching experience.

## Test Your Current Speed

The first thing you need to do is find out how your current settings and connection compare to others on your current ISP. To do this visit [SG Broadband Speed Test](#) and run a test. The results from this test will show how you compare to the average speed from your ISP.

There are many factors that can effect your connection speed and many of these can be physical problems, such as: How far you are way from your exchange, wi-fi connection speed and quality, phone line cabling and set-up in your house. A lot of these you don't have much control over and will have to live with, but some are software related and can be changed.

If you have a BT line, then a handy site to visit is [BT Broadband Performance Tester](#), that allows you to test your line and get detailed results on your connection rate, the IP profile of your line that you are supposed to receive and the actual IP throughput that you are achieving.

Many new broadband packages are sold as “up to” packages and many people do not see anywhere near the maximum speed advertised by their ISP. The good thing with testing your connection regularly is that you can see if it is getting worse or improving and letting you know what the average speed is on your ISP and what speed you are expected to get.

If you are not receiving the speed you would like then try implementing some of the tips below to improve your connection settings and increase your connection speed.

## Optimizing Broadband Settings

Visit [SG TCP Analyzer](#) and run the test. The results displayed will inform you how your current TCP settings fair and with some very handy recommendations for optimal settings. If you don't have optimal settings for your current connections then you can tweak them by downloading and running [SG TCP Optimizer](#) (XP or earlier – Vista patch available). Once you have downloaded and run SG TCP Optimizer, then do the following:-

- Click File – Backup Current Settings
- Click the General Settings tab and select your Connection Speed (Kbps)
- Click Network Adapter and choose the interface you use to connect to the Internet
- Click the Custom Settings radio button
- Enter the recommended settings you got from SG TCP Analyzer
- Click Apply
- Exit SG TCP Optimizer and reboot your PC to implement the changes

Another great and free service that can speed up your connection is to use [OpenDNS](#) for your DNS servers. What this means is that when you enter a URL, your PC only has to search 1 server to find the page you are after instead of asking loads. It is a huge map that has all the locations of the internet pages on the web and means you can access them a lot faster, and can also provide phishing protection. Simply visit the [OpenDNS](#) site and select the device you want to implement the settings on and it will take you through the process.

Another great site to visit that can test and recommend cures for many connection problems is [M-Lab](#). If you use BitTorrent then this is a recommended site to visit to test if your BitTorrent is being blocked or throttled.

## Optimizing Your Computer

### **Defragment Hard Drive**

Whilst surfing the web your browser needs to save and access data that it has downloaded from the web and if your hard drive is slow then this can also have an effect on your broadband speed. The easiest way to speed up your hard drive access times is to use a defragmenter, [AusLogic Disk Defrag](#) is free and faster than the ones built into windows.

### **Browser Cleanup**

Most browsers can be configured to clear your browser temporary files and cookies on closing down. This can free up space and can speed up surfing as has smaller directory to check for files etc.

### **Hard Drive Cleanup**

Keeping your hard drive free of unnecessary files will also speed your PC up. You can use the built in disk clean-up tools in windows, but a great Free-ware program to use is [CCleaner](#), which will not only remove unnecessary files, but will also delete your browser cookies and surfing information. You can also keep certain cookie files that you need to save you typing in passwords etc. when you revisit sites. The program also includes a Registry cleaner that will correct faults and problems in your registry files to make your PC run better. Remember to always backup your registry before making any changes.

I hope that this quick guide has helped with your internet connection and you found it useful. I will try to add any new information I get to this guide in the future, and please feel free to send it to friends etc.

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