



## WI-FI FACTS



Wi-Fi, or wireless fidelity, connectivity typically takes place through access points, or “hot spots,” that use unregulated frequencies in the same spectrum as appliances such as microwaves and most cordless home phones. Wi-Fi access can be set up in homes and offices, and in airports, hotels, restaurants and other public facilities, providing a convenient way to connect to the Internet, access e-mail or connect to a corporate network using a wireless device.

Wi-Fi speeds can vary depending on factors such as signal quality from the hot spot’s access point, distance from the hot spot and how many people are using it at a particular time. Average Wi-Fi speeds are usually faster than dial-up, ranging between 2 and 5 megabits per second between the access point and the Wi-Fi enabled devices.

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### SBC WI-FI SERVICE OFFERS EXTENSIVE NETWORK

SBC hot spots provide Wi-Fi Internet service in bookstores, coffee shops, airports, hotels, restaurants and convention centers and thousands of other locations throughout the nation. The SBC Wi-Fi network is one of the nation’s largest Wi-Fi networks with the service available in more than 6,700 hot spots.

To make wireless connectivity available to as many customers as possible, SBC companies are:

- Establishing hot spots at well-known venues including Barnes & Noble, The UPS Store® and Mail Boxes Etc.®, Caribou Coffee and major airports.
- Augmenting the *FreedomLink* network through roaming agreements with other Wi-Fi service providers and aggregators.
- Using its relationship with Cingular Wireless to integrate Wi-Fi and third-generation (3G) wireless service, giving customers broadband Internet access virtually everywhere they go – in the home or office and on the road.

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### FLEXIBLE, AFFORDABLE PRICING

SBC Wi-Fi service is priced to meet a variety of budgets and connection needs:

- Monthly memberships start at only \$19.95 a month and provide unlimited access to any SBC hot spot.
- Daily sessions are available for as low as \$7.95 and provide unlimited access at any SBC hot spot. Select locations, such as Barnes & Noble bookstores, offer 2-hour sessions for only \$3.95.
- SBC DSL customers are able to use the service at no charge until May 31, 2005 and pay only a \$1.99 a month thereafter.

# WI-FI REVOLUTION

## MAKING THE WI-FI CONNECTION



To use Wi-Fi at a public hot spot, you need a wireless device that's installed with a wireless adapter and its accompanying software. The wireless adapter costs about \$50 or less, but many new laptops and PDAs already come equipped for Wi-Fi access. The software will detect nearby access points and identify the Wi-Fi provider. Depending on your usage, settings and provider, you can sign up for a monthly membership or purchase access on a transactional basis. Wi-Fi membership and subscription fees will vary for each service provider.

## FACTS ABOUT WI-FI SECURITY

Most public hot spots are in locations that are open to any user, such as airports, hotels and restaurants. This makes security a top priority. SBC *FreedomLink* is addressing security by supporting secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) access and integrating a firewall into the SBC *FreedomLink* Welcome page. In addition, you can follow these precautions to help protect your information:

- If you are a frequent business traveler, make sure your company provides a VPN. A VPN lets you access a secure company network from almost any Internet connection.
- Install firewall software on your wireless device to protect against hackers, worms and viruses.
- Avoid sending personal information like credit card numbers or Social Security numbers when using a public hot spot.
- Be aware of others around you. Make sure you don't leave sensitive information out in the open for others to see.



## WI-FI IN DEMAND

- About 99 million people will have Wi-Fi-capable computers by 2006.
- Almost 31 million Wi-Fi users are expected in 2007.

(Source: Gartner Inc., a global research firm)

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SBC Communications Inc. is a Fortune 50 company whose subsidiaries, operating under the SBC brand, provide a full range of voice, data, networking, e-business, directory publishing and advertising, and related services to businesses, consumers and other telecommunications providers. SBC holds a 60 percent ownership interest in Cingular Wireless, which serves more than 50 million wireless customers. SBC companies provide high-speed DSL Internet access lines to more American consumers than any other provider and are among the nation's leading providers of Internet services. SBC companies also now offer satellite TV service. Additional information about SBC and SBC products and services is available at [www.sbc.com](http://www.sbc.com).

