

Bandwidth vs. Speed: What's the Difference?

Many people today use the words bandwidth and speed interchangeably. While they are related, understanding the difference can help you understand a lot about how your home network works.

Bandwidth determines how much data can be downloaded or uploaded. For example, if you choose a plan with 100Mbps, it means you can move 100 megabits of data per second. The higher the Mbps the more data you can move per second.

Speed determines how fast the data moves. For example, if you choose a plan with 100Mbps, it means you can move 100 megabits of data per second. Again, the higher the Mbps the more data you can move per second.

Not confusing at all, right? Of course, it is—because both bandwidth and speed are defined in the same simple description, “100 megabits – per second!” That’s why people end up using the words interchangeably.

Let's sort it out

Fiber and DSL bandwidth are not shared among neighbors, but are shared within your home. Let's use the 100Mbps plan as an example and assume your home is simultaneously using ten different internet-connected devices (currently, the average household has 25 internet-connected devices). And let's also assume each device requires a minimum of 10Mbps to operate properly. Guess what? You've just maxed out your internet plan. Connecting even one more device means your internet experience will be hindered on all your devices. You may experience lag and buffering, or the device may disconnect from the internet.

In this case, there's absolutely nothing wrong with your internet speed. Your plan promises 100Mbps delivered to your home, and that's what you receive. However... It feels like the internet is slowing down because your network is overburdened. There isn't enough bandwidth to cover all of your devices at the same time. You need more bandwidth because your home doesn't receive enough data per second to operate all the devices you're currently using.

When you consider the number of your internet-connected household devices—and how and when they're used—you can make the smart choice about which internet technology, bandwidth, and speed are right for you. **At La Jicarita, we're happy to help you determine which plan is right for you.**



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Working together to stay connected

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Board Member Feature: Nancy Cruz



Nancy Cruz, current Secretary/Treasurer, has been a La Jicarita Board Member for over 20 years. She enjoys serving on the board and helping to bring the best in internet technology — fiber access — to the La Jicarita service area. When she

first joined the board in 1998, she was only the second woman to have been on the board.

She has witnessed a lot of technological advances in her time on the board. Twenty years ago, there were only telephone lines, and then cellular service and now almost 80% of the La Jicarita service area has access to fiber internet. She is proud of the fact that La Jicarita members have better access to high-speed internet than many people in larger cities.

Nancy has worn many hats throughout her career. For 20 years she ran Levi's Café in Wagon Mound. Before that she managed Franken Oil Company. Nancy even had the honor of delivering a baby while she was a volunteer EMT. While she is 'technically' retired, she still occasionally helps her husband with a rural mail route.

Nancy resides in Wagon Mound with her husband of 51 years. Together they have 3 children and 7 grandchildren that they enjoy spending as much time with as they can.

She considers it a civic duty and privilege to serve on the board and help the members maintain their service. Members know they can call if they need help or have an issue and that the board will help because that's their legacy — **working together to stay connected!**

Fiber Update

The La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative continues a steady progress with the Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) Construction Project in the Mora Exchange despite having to prepare for potential application fees and security bonds imposed by the State of New Mexico (NMDOT). Recently, the State of New Mexico acting by and through the New Mexico Department of Transportation has administered an interim Use and Occupancy Permit Provision requiring all broadband and telecommunication service providers in Urban and Rural areas in the state of New Mexico to compensate in fair-exchange for uses of right-of-way permits. *"Although we have had some delays in working with the NMDOT on the permitting process, we are still on schedule with the construction and upgrade of our fiber optic facilities and overall goals with the FTTH project."* — Michael J. Leyba, Operations Manager.

Meanwhile, our FTTH Construction team has nearly completed the construction and installation of fiber optics facilities in the community of Monte Aplanado and its surrounding areas and is currently working in the village of Ledoux (NM State Hwy 94). Upon the completion of the village of Ledoux, the plan remains the same with continuing into the communities of Buena Vista and Golondrinas.

Please continue to work with our FTTH Construction team as they come through your community to provide the necessary information to any existing facilities and utilities located on your private property. Again, there is no cost for receiving a fiber connection and your monthly billing will remain the same as per your existing subscribed services. For more information or questions, please call the LJRTC management at (575) 387-2216.



Congratulations to our scholarship recipient!



Meet our winner!

We are pleased to announce that Elias Armijo is our 2021 Scholarship Recipient.

Elias graduated from Wagon Mound High School. He is attending New

Mexico Highlands University pursuing a degree in Computer Science. His parents are Benito & Rita Armijo from Wagon Mound, NM.

Our scholarship recipients are decided upon by our Scholarship Committee and we couldn't be prouder of Elias' hard work. 2022 scholarship applications will be available starting February 1, 2022.

2022 Rate Increase

Effective January 1, 2022, La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative has increased the monthly charge for residential basic local service to \$19.00, an increase of \$1.00. This rate increase relates to rules adopted by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NM PRC) that require residential rates be at a minimum level or La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative risks receiving reduced amounts from the NM PRC's state universal service fund (USF) program. Amounts La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative receives from the USF are vital in helping ensure local services are available at affordable rates.

We value your business, and if you have any questions, please contact us at 800-742-7232 or at 575-387-2216.