



LINKAGES – Edition 23

”Double the Bandwidth”

Is 64kbps just not enough? Did you know the bandwidth on single channel ISDN can be doubled, without doubling the cost?

The standard LCC Gateway comes with hardware that supports the use of two simultaneous ISDN Bearer (“B”) Channels; when combined, this allows an effective doubling from the current 64kbps, to 128kbps.

Using a second B channel means that additional call charges are payable to Telstra, and that an additional monthly fee is payable to the ISP (for use of a second port). Whilst the exact charges will vary, depending on the exact hours of ISDN operation, the nominal result is that the monthly operating cost will rise from c. \$240 to around \$365 per month. That’s a 100% increase in bandwidth for ~52% increased cost. (By the way, that’s still less than Perth-based businesses were paying for a 24 hour, 64kbps ISDN connection to the Internet).

The Shire of Murray was one of the earliest LCC Gateway Pilot sites, with 64kbps ISDN installed in January 2003. The difference in performance between the previous twin dial-up modems, and the 64kbps ISDN via the LCC Gateway, was incredible! Supporting more than 40 users, including public access terminals in the library, the 64k has done well for the last 16 months, but increased use of web-based resources has recently prompted a speed upgrade. The increase to 128kbps has resulted in yet another noticeable speed increase, and ought to prove adequate until such time as broadband services are delivered to Pinjarra.

Of course, for those councils fortunate to have ADSL (typically 512/128kbps down/up), ISDN isn’t attractive at all, however for the majority of WA, the choice of 64kbps or 128kbps ISDN represents the most cost effective access to the ‘net at this time.

Have you returned your MOA?

By now, all non-metropolitan Councils will have received a letter, overview document and MOA, ascertaining Councils’ interest & commitment to having an LCC Gateway.

Just a reminder that MOAs must be received by 30th June 2004 in order for councils to be eligible for the fully funded provision of the Gateway

FAQ – Telecommunications Project & MOA

What is the service all about?

The Managed Gateway Service has two major parts; the first is to assist Local Governments in identifying the optimum broadband solution and pricing contract available to them. The second part is in the delivery of a Gateway PC that sits between the Councils local network and the Internet. This Gateway PC provides the Council with Secure, Robust, Reliable and Monitorable Internet connectivity. It will provide intrusion and virus protection, increase your Internet connectivity speed and can be set-up to manage your email. The LCC Program provides you with the PC free of charge and it becomes an asset of the Council.

The Shire/Town/City already has an ISDN/ADSL internet connection; can this solution offer us any value?

Absolutely, initially we can work with you to ensure that you are on the optimum ISP and carrier pricing contracts. The Gateway PC is configured to optimise Internet connectivity speeds so even Councils with existing ISDN or ADSL lines will notice significant improvements in the Internet connectivity. It is also important to remember the security and monitoring services the Gateway PC provides.

What fees are involved?

ISP Fees – a monthly fee you pay to your internet service provider for the internet connection. You already pay as ISP fee if you have an existing connection to the Internet.

Carrier Fees – a monthly fee you pay for the line rental (usually Telstra). You already pay a fee if you have an existing connection to the Internet, sometimes this is embedded in the carrier billing.

Managed Services Fee – an annual fee of \$660 + GST paid to the LCC program for the monitoring and maintenance of your network and Gateway PC.

Mail Service Fee – an annual fee of \$240 +GST paid to WestNet for managing email distribution (note this fee is only applicable for non WestNet ISP customers)

We have more than one location can we have a Gateway PC in both?

Yes, however you will need to purchase the second Gateway PC at \$3,000. It is also worth while to note if you wish to have broadband at the second location, you will incur additional carrier and ISP fees.

Why is Satellite not a preferred option (1 or 2 way?)

Internet connectivity via a satellite solution has problems with latency. Latency is the time delay between the users entering a website address and the web page downloading. In layman’s terms, the latency is too long and hence visiting web pages via a satellite connection shows little improvement. Satellite connectivity is best for downloading large files.

I want to participate, what do I do next?

To participate simply complete the MOA by entering your details in the appropriate sections, completing the fees section and then mailing the MOA to Kieran McCluskey, PO Box 1554 West Perth 6872. A member of the LCC Program team will be in contact with you once the MOA is returned to discuss the next steps, including scheduling the installation.

What happens if we miss the June 30 dead line?

You will still be able to participate; the only difference is the Gateway PC will cost the Council \$3,000 to purchase instead of being free.

If you have any other questions or queries about this offering please do not hesitate to contact Kieran McCluskey on 9213 2081.

