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AT&T expands gigabit fiber to 23 cities starting at \$70 (or \$110)

Suburbs of Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Miami, and others lit up with "GigaPower."

by Jon Brodtkin - Nov 10, 2015 7:40am PST



AT&T's updated GigaPower coverage map.

AT&T

AT&T yesterday **announced expansions** of its gigabit fiber Internet service into parts of 23 cities and towns.

The new markets are mostly in the suburbs of big cities where AT&T already offered its fastest broadband. For example, AT&T previously brought its "U-verse with GigaPower" service to Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Miami, Nashville, and Orlando. The expansion this week brings the service into a bunch of cities and towns within the larger metro areas.

Pricing for the Internet-only 1Gbps package is either \$70 a month or \$110 a month, depending on where you live. As we've reported previously, AT&T tends to **match Google Fiber's \$70 pricing**, but not in areas where Google isn't offering service. Besides that, AT&T's lowest price in each city requires customers to **opt into "Internet Preferences,"** which gives the company permission to examine each customer's Web traffic in order to serve personalized ads.

The higher \$110 gigabit pricing is used in the Chicago, Houston, Miami, and Orlando metro areas, with 300Mbps speeds costing \$80 a month. The other markets in yesterday's announcements can buy gigabit service for \$70 a month.

AT&T has been expanding its fiber network despite the company's previous claims that new common carrier regulations and net neutrality rules for broadband providers would **stifle investment**. But the expansion is not unexpected, because AT&T **agreed to it** in exchange for government clearance of its DirecTV acquisition.

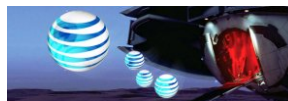
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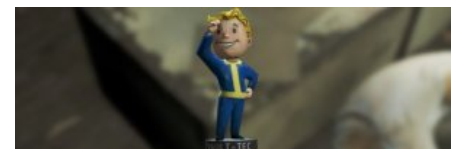
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The full list of new GigaPower cities includes the Atlanta suburbs of Alpharetta, Cartersville, Duluth, East Point, and Rome; Chicago suburbs of Bolingbrook, Mundelein, Shorewood, and Volo; the Nashville suburb of Gallatin; the Houston suburbs of Hunters Creek Village and Rosenberg; the Miami suburbs of Coral Gables, Homestead, Miami Gardens, and Parkland; the Nashville suburb of Spring Hill; and the Orlando suburbs of Oviedo and Sanford. Rounding out the list of new Gigapower markets are Clemmons, Garner, Holly Springs, and Salisbury in North Carolina.

AT&T also said it plans to make GigaPower available in parts of Munster, Indiana; Elmwood Park, Illinois; Avondale Estates and Jonesboro in Georgia; and North Miami, Florida.

YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

Want to opt out? It could cost up to \$744 extra per year.

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