

Information Disclosure

Consumer Broadband Labels

CONSUMER BROADBAND LABEL		
QoS Parameter	Download (in Mbps)	Upload (in Mbps)
Max Speed	1.8	1.2
Average Speed	1.2	1.0
Social networking	★★★★☆	
Video streaming	★★★★★	
HD video	★☆☆☆☆	
Mapping apps	★★★☆☆	
Web browsing	★★★★☆	
Messaging apps	★★★★☆	
Voice calling	★★★★★	
Data pricing	Limit	Upgrade
Rs 100/pm	1 GB	5p / MB
Rs 200/pm	2 GB	5p / MB
Guidance notes: - Choose a plan based on your needs - 5min of Youtube streaming @ 240p will consume 15MB of data - 5min of Facebook browsing will consume XXX of data - Example: With a 1GB plan, you can watch 30 Youtube videos of 5min each, and spend XXX minutes on Facebook		



“Get closer than ever to your customers. So close that you tell them what they need well before they realise it themselves.”

Steve Jobs

CONSUMER BROADBAND LABEL		
QoS Parameters	Download	Upload
Max Speed	1.8 Mbps	1.2 Mbps
Average Speed	1.2 Mbps	1.0 Mbps
Latency	32ms	
Availability	89%	75%
DNS delay	289ms	
Stability: Mean Time Between Switch	2.1s	3.5s
Service quality	Assessment	
Activation time	10 hours max. 3.5 hours avg	
Coverage	Bihar: 100% West Bengal: 70% Rajasthan: 50% Uttar Pradesh: 89%	
	National: 18/22 circles	
Performance improvement over last year	Speed: ++ (25%) Latency: No change Stability: - (10%) Coverage: +++ (50%)	
Network improvement practices		
Content Delivery Networks	Enhanced performance for Facebook, Youtube	
Data compression proxies	Ad blocker, image compression	
Available capacity for new users	65% utilization	
Goals for 2017	Coverage inc. to 95% Avg. speed to 1.5Mbps	

Qualitative Label

Quantitative labels would represent the Quality of Service (QoS) for broadband service in a star format, where number of stars will correspond to a scale of 1-5. This is similar to the Star Rating for Electrical Appliances by Bureau of Energy Efficiency. A 5-star rating would reflect the best possible QoS, while 1-Star would represent a poor service. This label would however require establishment of a standard methodology for calculation of star based rating.

Benefits

- ◆ Easily comprehensible for common consumers
- ◆ Covers major usage patterns (Social Networking, Video streaming etc.) for consumers

Challenges

- ◆ Lacks information on technical parameters
- ◆ Not too detailed, only provides an overview of QoS
- ◆ Induces subjectivity in measurements, if framed without a standard methodology

Quantitative Label

Quantitative label would represent QoS in a numeric format, for the technical parameters as stated in the standards of “Quality of Service for Wireless Data Services Regulation, 2012” by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). New and relevant parameters may be added to the list, as per the evolution of technology. The QoS for each parameter may highlight the maximum, minimum or average measurements.

Benefits

- ◆ Comprehensible for consumers possessing technical know-how of broadband services
- ◆ States the QoS in absolute terms, reducing subjectivity in measurements

Challenges

- ◆ Only highlights key QoS parameters
- ◆ Precisely gauging the QoS for certain parameters could be difficult

The Initiative

- ◆ Advocates for complete information disclosure of broadband services via broadband labels
- ◆ Brings together regulator, service providers & non-state actors to work on information disclosure mechanism
- ◆ Creates a network of stakeholders and increases their long-term capacity/awareness

Envisaged Outcomes

- ◆ Change in attitude of consumers and other stakeholders towards importance of broadband labels
- ◆ Well informed, educated and responsible stakeholders for broadband services
- ◆ Adequate information and awareness about consumer rights and obligations for availing broadband services

Activities



Mr R.S. Sharma, TRAI Chairman, speaking about need for broadband labels (New Delhi, April 2017)



Focused Group Discussion with Stakeholders (Jaipur, June 2017)

Reflections from Media



Key Achievements

- Public consultation initiated by the TRAI, considering inputs from CUTS, to improve data speeds and information disclosure mechanism to help consumers in making informed choice for broadband services
- CSO Network: Engagement with the industry and regulator at a pan India level.
- Partnerships between CSO and premier Research organisations: Broadband Label Designs prepared jointly by CUTS and IIT-Delhi

Op-eds

Need to address quality of service issues

Live Mint, October 30, 2017

Dissatisfied TRAI Quality of Service Assessment amplifies need for Broadband Labels: CUTS

KNN, August 10, 2017

Effective consumer broadband labels need of the hour

Medianama, August 10, 2017

TRAI Initiates Public Consultation on Labelling Broadband Services in India

BWCIO, June 21, 2017

Need 'broadband labelling' to safeguard consumer interest: TRAI

PTI, April 07, 2017

Better, faster Net options needed

The Asian Age, February 10, 2017

Our Partners



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