

How to get connected to the Internet

1. What you Need to get Started

You need a telephone line that works. For example a phone line that you can make phone calls from. The reason you need a phone line is because your modem dials a number at your Internet Service Provider to access the Internet. While you are on the Internet your phone line will be busy. This is the reason many people have two lines or their line is busy when they are on the Internet.

You will need a computer with a modem. Sometimes a modem is inside the computer or it is a small box on the outside of your computer that you plug in. If you are unsure what an internal modem looks like there will be a small square hole in the back of your computer . see Image 1 below.

You will also need a cord that plugs into your modem and then into your phone jack on the wall. You can either unplug your phone, use a double adapter or have a dedicated phone jack for your modem.

You need to be careful as a Network connection looks similar to the modem connection but the Network connection is slightly larger.

2. Internet Service Provider

You will need to contact an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and purchase an Internet account. An ISP is a company that for a fee allows you to dial a number and access Internet. Before contacting ISP's you should first decide what you will use the Internet for and for how many hours a month you will likely use the Internet for as there are different plans available based upon how long you will be using the Internet for per month.

If you are unsure of how many hours per month you are likely to spend on the Internet you are best to see if you can have an unlimited hours account then review at the end of the month or several months later to see which plan would best suit you.

When purchasing an account there are a number of things to be aware of:

- a) Only some ISP's charge a one off set up fee.
- b) Prices vary so best to shop around.
- c) Some ISP's are only local, not national. This means if you are out of your local area it will be a toll call to use the Internet.

All ISP's give you an email address *eg* yourname@theirCompanyName.co.nz . It is only optional to use this email account.

3. Setting up your computer

Some ISP's give you a CD-Rom that will install all the necessary information for you, others give provide you with all the connection settings on it. If you have the settings you are able to contact your ISP for support on how to set everything up.

4. What Can I Do with my new connection ?.

You can use your connection just for email or for surfing, downloading or even adding your own web site to the Internet.