

DSL Definitions and DSL Varieties

DSL--Digital Subscriber Line

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) is a group of technologies that deliver higher speeds over existing telephone copper wiring.

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Secure high speed Internet access using existing copper lines. DSL can deliver speeds of up to 1.5 Mbps, 12 times faster than ISDNs 128 Kbps, and up to 50 times faster than most dial-up modems.

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DSL. Digital Subscriber Line. A general term for any local network loop that is digital in nature. DSL technology is available in several varieties. (See below.)

DSL Varieties

ADSL. Asymmetric DSL offers a variety of downstream & upstream rates. ADSL is often provisioned with greater downstream than upstream rates (hence the "asymmetric" name). These rates are dependent on the distance a user is from the CO and may vary from as little as 384 Kbps up to 1.5 Mbps.

IDSL. (ISDN DSL) IDSL provides up to 144 Kbps transfer rates in each direction and can be provisioned on any ISDN capable phone line. Unlike ADSL and other DSL technologies, IDSL can be deployed regardless of the distance the user is from the CO.

SDSL. Symmetric DSL developed as a modified HDSL software technology. If you qualify SDSL can provide up to 1.1 Mbps in both directions over a single twisted pair. However, the distance over which this can be achieved is limited.

xDSL. A generic term for the suite of digital subscriber line (DSL) services, where the "x" can be replaced by any of a number of letters.