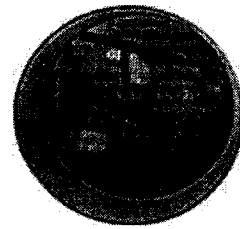
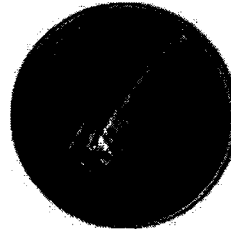
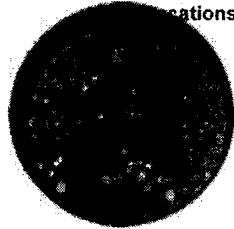


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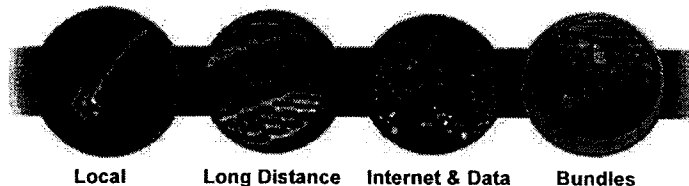
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NewSouth Communications' Business Exchange Lines enable you to customize the features and functionality of your telephone.

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If your business places a large number of calls beyond our expanded local calling area, then Extended NewArea™ is designed for you.

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NewSouth Communications' customers can track local and long distance calls by caller, department or client using our advanced Account Code system.

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Small Business Solutions enables businesses with as few as two lines to enjoy the savings of a competitive telecommunications provider. Your small business will enjoy savings of 15-20% off your current BellSouth services. Finally, small businesses have a choice.

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Phone Cards

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Expand your communication capabilities with our suite of advanced voice features. These include an Individualized Dialing Plan, Multi-way Calling, Queuing, and Customer Recovery options.

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NewSouth.net, our high-speed Internet product, brings you the World Wide Web with the touch of a button. Your connection is fast and it's secure - the bandwidth you purchase is guaranteed.

Private Networking

Netosphere, can provide your business with a comprehensive, custom-designed private networking solution for high-speed business communications. With a flexible, cost-effective private network, you will mobilize your business by sharing information and applications between sites.

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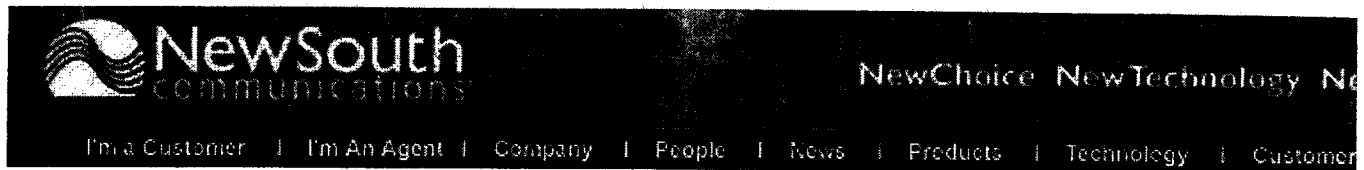
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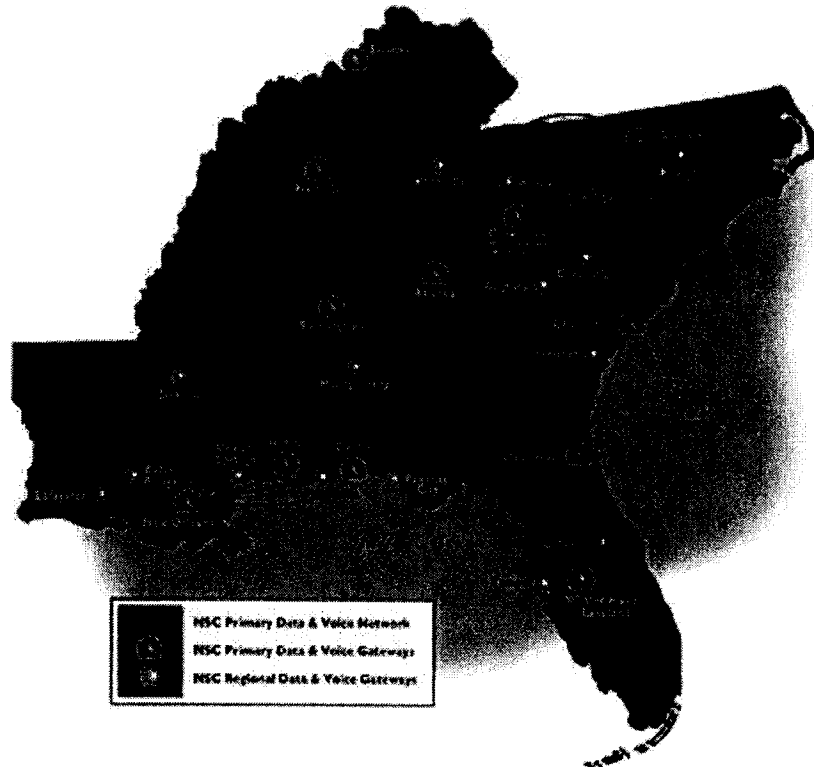
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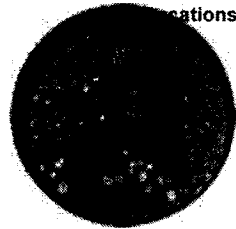


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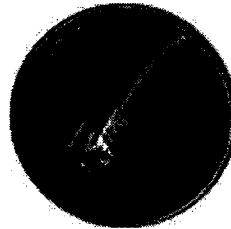


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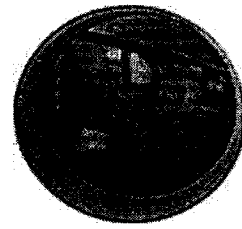
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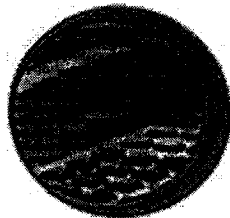
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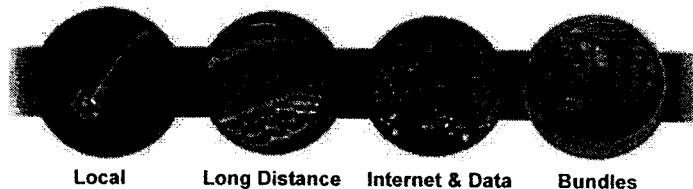
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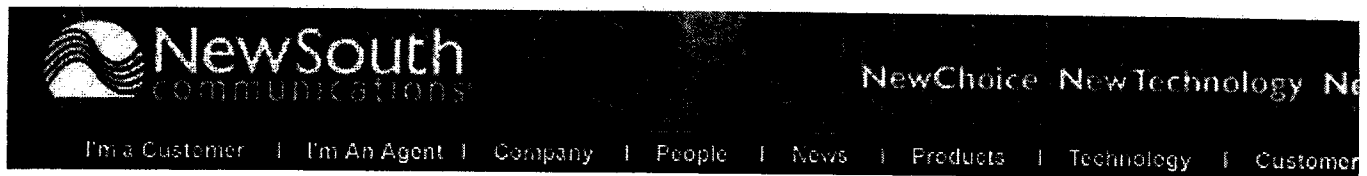
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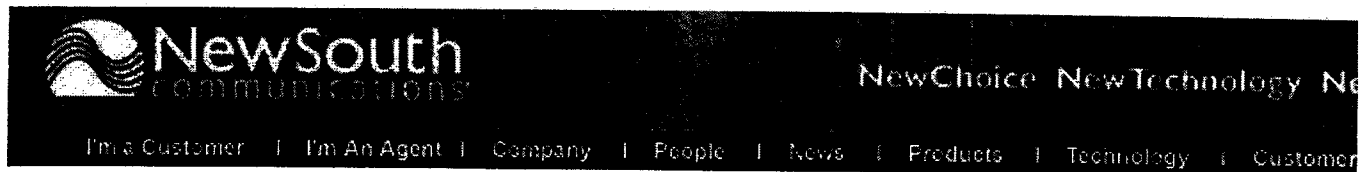
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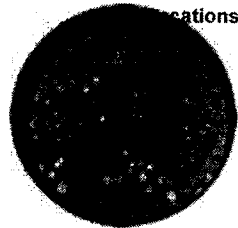
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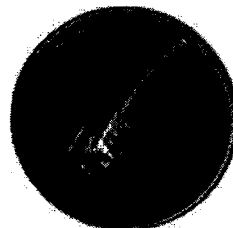
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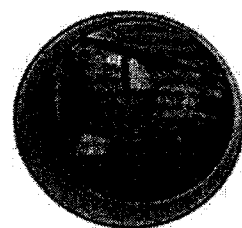
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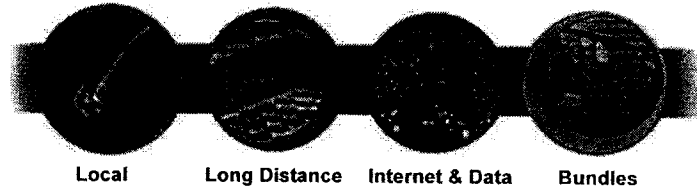
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-SONET

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-Technical Support / Escalation
-Inquiry Form

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-StandardTalk
-FamilyTalk
-DiscountTalk
-Calling Card
-800 # PIN
-International Calls
-Letter of Authorization

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-TNLD Interstate Rates for
Alaska & Hawaii

Calling Card Rates

-Intl' Calls Initiated Inside U.S.
-Intl' Calls Initiated Outside U.S.

LOCAL PHONE SERVICES

ValuePak Bundle Plans

-ValuePak 1000
-ValuePak 100
-ValuePak 7
-ValuePak 7 ACP
-Features Available

Additional Home Phone Plans

-ValuePak - Basic
-ValuePak - ACP
-Flat Rate Service
-ACP Service

Lifeline Assistance

INTERNET ACCESS SERVICES

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-Dedicated Access
-Dial-up Access
-DSL Access
-E-Commerce
-NetBeam Access
-Web Development
-Web Hosting

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-Support & Tools
-Check Online Usage
-Change Password

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Products & Services

NetBeam Internet Access

	Price	Usage ²	Over Usage	Email(s)	Web Space	Setup Fee ¹
Residential	\$59.95 /mth	Unlimited	\$0.08 /min	2	10 MB	\$280
Business	\$119.95 /mth	Unlimited	\$0.08 /min	3	10 MB	Call
Non-Profit	\$89.95 /mth	Unlimited	\$0.08 /min	3	10 MB	Call

Optional:

Extra Email \$2.50 per e-mail address

Extra Web Space \$5.00 per 5MB Block

1. A one-time processing fee of \$2.00 applies to all new activations.
2. Dial-up is limited to 100 hours when not using with NetBeam service.

Customer Care & Tech Support

Toll-free:

Customer
1-877-TEI
Mon. - Fri. 8 A.M.
Saturday 9 A.M.

Internet Techni
1-888-806
Mon. - Fri. 8 A.M.
Saturday 9 A.M.

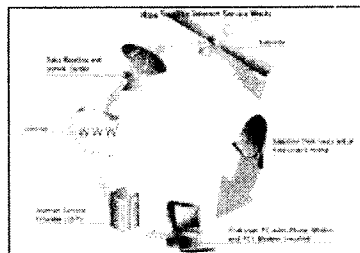
FAQs

What is high-speed access?

As a comparison, typical dial-up speeds are in the range of 28.8 kbps or 56kbps. High-speed access, therefore is a timesaving tool that allow you to work faster while you are using the Internet.

What is Internet satellite service?

Not every home has access to DSL Internet access and the costs of setting up this technology throughout the country, to each home, are in the billions of dollars. Satellite is a lot quicker and less expensive to hook up because it doesn't have the same infrastructure requirements. With speeds of ten times a normal dialup account, the download of information from the Internet to your computer goes from the satellite direct to your PC. The upload of information from your computer to the Internet goes first via an existing phone line to Telepak.net.



[click to enlarge.](#)

What is the difference between DSL and satellite high-speed access?

DSL operates over telephone copper wire and is distance limited. DSL only covers approximately a three-mile radius from the telephone central office or remote. With satellite service, as long as you have clear visibility to southeastern sky, you can receive the quality signal.

Why would I want to upgrade my dial-up Internet service?

To perform research quicker in support of schoolwork, business work or personal development. The faster speed means less time waiting, increasing work efficiency making telecommuting or working from home a practical reality. To decrease the time it takes to download material from the Internet. To significantly shorten your time spent waiting for downloads and to more effectively manage your time spent on the Internet.

What if I have to move?

No problem. As long as you move with-in the state of Mississippi, you can take your equipment with you to your new address. And for a small re-location fee of \$150.00, we can have your satellite service working in no time.

What is the cost?

For residential customers, the monthly service is \$59.95 and a one-time activation charge of \$280 that includes equipment and professional installation. You will receive an email after activating your service with our terms and condition and reasonable use policy.

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Contact Customer Care at **1.877.TELEPAK** (1.877.835.3725) for more information and about our new long distance rate.

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- ValuePak Bundle
- Additional Home Features
- Lifeline Assistance
- Long Distance

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Local Phone Service

ValuePak Bundle Plans

If you want to have an idea of what your monthly phone bill will be each month, Telepak Networks' ValuePak Bundle Plans are for you. The ValuePak Bundle Plans combine your local service, long distance, and a choice of numerous features into easy to understand billing plans at cost effective prices. View our plans to find the right ValuePak Bundle for you.

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- ValuePak 100
- ValuePak 7
- ValuePak 7 ACP
- Features Available

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Commercial Broadband Services

Telepak Networks, via fiber optic and other broadband facilities, specializes in offering cost efficient bandwidth necessary for data networking and telecommunications services to other carriers (wireless, IXC, CLEC, ILEC, CATV), ISPs, universities, governmental agencies, hospitals, and businesses. Telepak Networks' wide array of commercial broadband services include ATM, DS1, DS3, OC level services, SONET, and frame relay.

Today, Telepak Networks maintains over 1,780 miles of fiber optic cable throughout Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida (states in which it is certified as a CLEC).

For sales and pricing information, please complete the [inquiry form](#) or contact Phil Rice at 601-974-7142.

Commercial Broadband Services Network Map

For a description of the POP locations of Telepak Networks' fiber network, click the link to [Network Map](#).

Commercial Broadband Technical Support and Escalation List

To report a trouble on a broadband service, such as DS1, DS3, OC-X, SONET, or frame relay application, please call, TOLL FREE, 1-800-342-3716. For more information on Commercial Broadband Technical Support, click [Escalation List](#).

Payment Remittance for Telepak Networks Commercial Broadband Services:

Telepak Networks, Inc.
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Jackson MS 39225

Contact #: 800-342-3716

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Commercial Broadband Services

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- DS1
- DS3
- SONET
- DSL
- Frame Relay

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- Local Phone Service
- Internet Access
- Long Distance

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[Broadband Network Map](#)

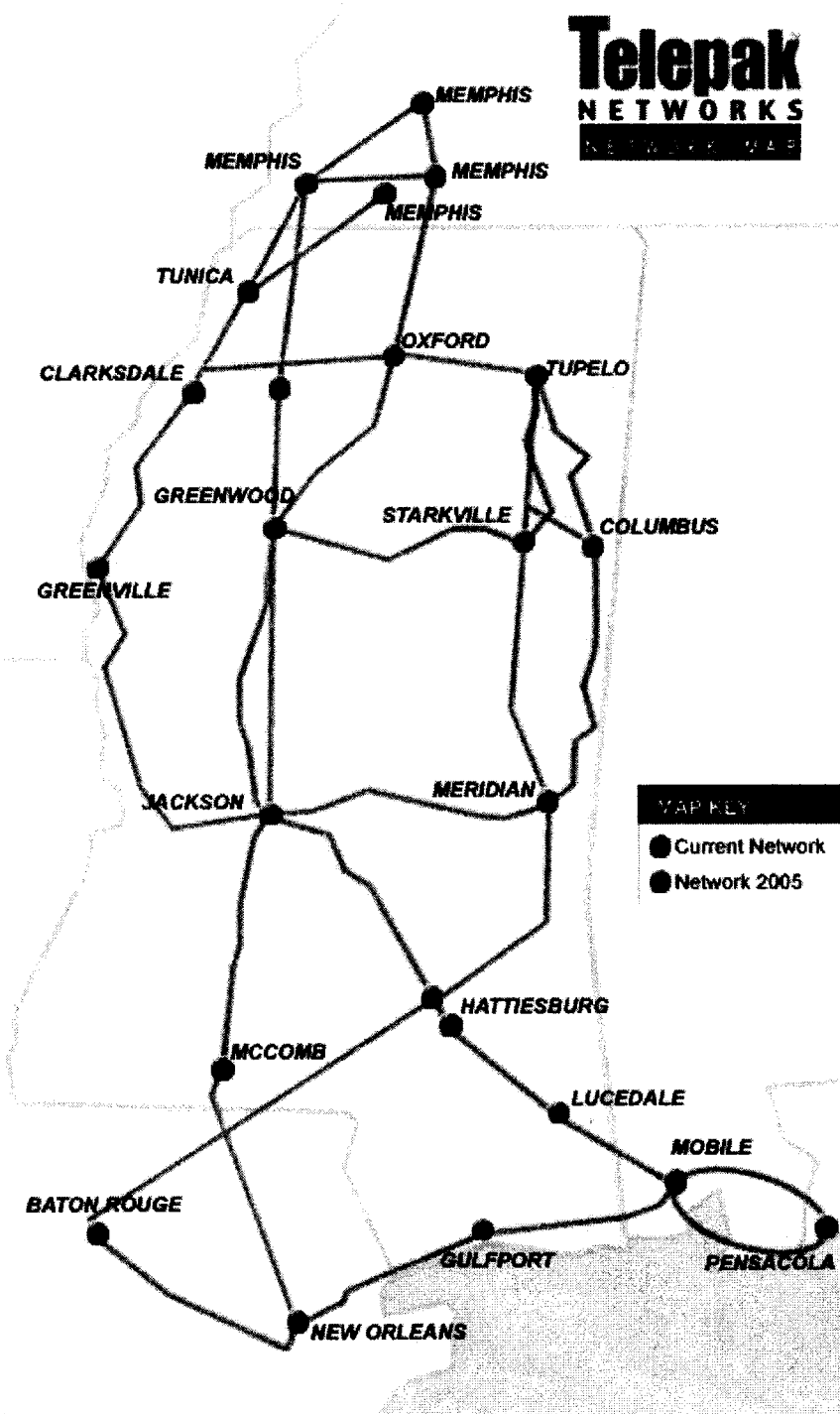
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12

Commercial Broadband Map



POP Information
To view the POP in
on the town (or tier),

To download the PI
the Telepak Network
here.

Commercial Broadband Services

- ATM
- DS1
- DS3
- SONET
- DSL
- Frame Relay

Additional Other Services

- Local Phone Service
- Internet Access
- Long Distance

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MORE INFORMATION

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FAQ's

General Telepak.net Information

1. **What is Telepak.netSM?**

Telepak.net is your local gateway to all the Internet has to offer. Dedicated to serving the needs of on-the-go Mississippi families, Telepak.net is an easy to use dial-up Internet service that gets you on-line immediately! Check the weather, plan a vacation, get help with homework, or get the latest news, sports, and financial updates, all with the click of a button.

2. **Where is Telepak.net service available?**

Telepak.net is accessible through local access numbers in cities throughout Mississippi, and we're adding numbers all the time! View our list of [local access numbers](#) available today.

3. **How much does Telepak.net service cost?**

You'll find Telepak.net priced competitively with other local Internet service providers offering a similar variety of features. Review our [Residential Services](#) and follow the links for rates on specific service options, or call Customer Care for more information.

4. **Does Telepak.net provide commercial services?**

Commercial service such as Web page hosting and dedicated connections may be available depending on location. To determine availability, call Customer Care for more information.

5. **How am I billed?**

You can set up your account for credit card or bank draft or, if you prefer, you will receive a statement by mail.

6. **Do you offer technical support?**

Yes! Technical Support is available to answer any questions you may have regarding your installation, software or hardware. Live technical support specialists are on -hand to help you Monday through Friday 8:00a.m. - 10:00p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Call Tech Support toll-free at **1.888.806.HELP (4357)** or fill out our [support form](#) online.

7. **When in an area without a local access number or when traveling outside Mississippi, can I access Telepak.net service?**

Yes. Simply dial in to our out-of-area access number 1.800.720.8444. Usage is 12¢ per minute and will be billed to your account. Plus \$2.00 access fee.

Customer Care & Tech Support

Toll-free:

Customer
1-877-TE

Mon. - Fri. 8 A.M.

Saturday 9 A.M.

Internet Techni

1-888-806

Mon. - Fri. 8 A.M.

Saturday 9 A.M.

8. How do I sign up?

Register by phone by calling Telepak.net Customer Care toll-free at 1.877.TELEPAK (1.877.835.3725).

9. What is my username?

Many times in our documentation you'll see the term:

username or user name

When you signed up, you chose a name for your account. We'll refer to that name throughout this site as either username or user name. Whenever you see that term, replace it with the name you've chosen. It's always in lower case.

If you've forgotten your username:

The easiest way to remember your username is that it is first part of your email address. Example - name@telepak.net is the email address. "Name" would be your username. If you still can't remember the username you chose, call Customer Care at 1-877-835-3725 and ask for assistance.

Changing your username:

After you change your username, mail sent to the old username may bounce (become undeliverable) or, if in the future someone else picks your old user name, will go to that person's mailbox. **Usernames must meet the following criteria:**

- Must be between 4 to 24 letters or numbers long.
- All lowercase
- Special characters like #,% or ^ are not allowed.

Think carefully about changing your username. Changing it is like changing your phone number--you may lose contact with some people who won't be able to get your new email address. If you decide you want to, call Customer Care 1.877.TELEPAK (835-3725).

10. What is a quota?

Your quota is how much disk space you are allowed to use on Telepak.net's servers.

Web Storage Account:

Personal accounts are allotted 5 MB of space for personal use. Commercial accounts with a domain are allotted 15 MB web storage. Additional space can be purchased for \$5.00 per month per 5 MB block.

Email Account:

Each email account is allotted 10 MB of storage. Additional storage can be purchased for \$.99 per MB per month.

11. Does Telepak Time Me Out?

It's fairly common for subscribers to accidentally leave their computers connected to the Internet long after they have finished with their online activities. Each connected user ties up a line, which is unavailable to other customers while it is in use.

To prevent annoying busy signals for the rest of our customers, and

unnecessary over-usage bills for those who forget to disconnect, the Telepak system is configured to watch our modems' idle time. If the servers see no modem activity (i.e. no data transfer) for 20 minutes, the connection will be reset. You'll be automatically disconnected.

If you're checking your email, or downloading a Web page, you won't get disconnected. Because the modems are transferring data, the system views your connection as active.

-
12. **Telepak.net's Modem Numbers.**
Click the link to view [modem listing](#).

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Local Access Number

We provide you with local access telephone numbers in cities throughout Mississippi! All local access numbers are 56FLEX & v.90 modem support.

We also provide National 800 service, which allows you to access Telepak.net from locations throughout the continental U.S. for just \$0.12 per minute, plus a \$2.00 per month access fee. To access this number, dial 1.800.720.8444.

CITY, STATE	ACCESS NUMBER
Aberdeen, MS	(662) 369-4011
Ackerman, MS	(662) 285-6388
Amory, MS	(662) 478-1000
Baldwyn, MS	(662) 214-1000
Batesville, MS	(662) 563-5022
Bay St Louis, MS	(228) 467-0060
Belmont, MS	(662) 479-1000
Belzoni, MS	(662) 399-1000
Biloxi, MS	(228) 436-0808
Booneville, MS	(662) 480-1000
Brookhaven, MS	(601) 833-5136
Canton, MS	(601) 859-1995
Carthage, MS	(601) 267-0224
Centreville, MS	(601) 219-1000
Charleston, MS	(662) 647-0199
Clarksdale, MS	(662) 627-5080
Cleveland, MS	(662) 846-2911
Coffeeville, MS	(662) 481-1000
Coldwater, MS	(662) 622-7525
Collins, MS	(601) 712-1000
Columbia, MS	(601) 736-7006
Columbus, MS	(662) 328-2670
Corinth, MS	(662) 286-2772
Crystal Springs, MS	(601) 892-0510
Drew, MS	(662) 482-1000
Eupora, MS	(662) 258-5590
Flora, MS	(601) 879-3188
Forest, MS	(601) 469-4119
Gautier, MS	(228) 497-1234
Gloster, MS	(662) 225-0103
Greenville, MS	(662) 378-4005
Greenwood, MS	(662) 455-0280
Grenada, MS	(662) 226-0025
Gulfport, MS	(228) 865-1020
Hattiesburg, MS	(601) 268-0550
Hazlehurst, MS	(601) 894-0170

Customer Care & Tech Support

Toll-free:

Customer
1-877-TEI
 Mon. - Fri. 8 A.M.
 Saturday 9 A.M.

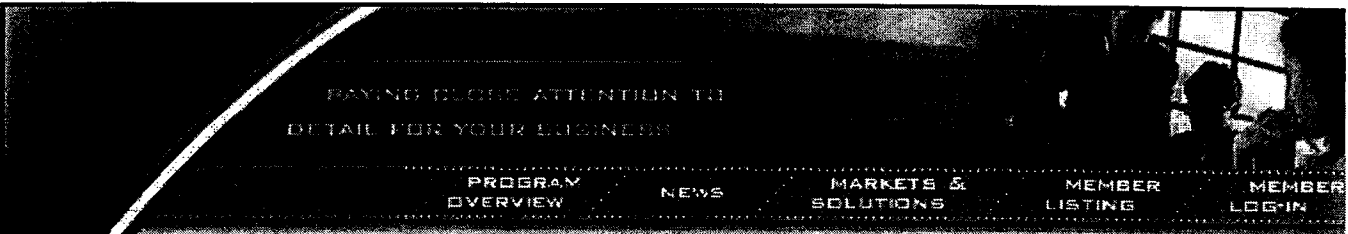
Internet Techni
1-888-806
 Mon. - Fri. 8 A.M.
 Saturday 9 A.M.

Holly Springs, MS	(662) 484-1000
Houston, MS	(662) 499-1000
Indianola, MS	(662) 877-8027
Iuka, MS	(662) 443-1000
Jackson, MS	(601) 969-7722
Kosciusko, MS	(662) 289-5507
Laurel, MS	(601) 425-0222
Lexington, MS	(662) 525-1000
Liberty, MS	(601) 657-8212
Louise, MS	(662) 836-4638
Louisville, MS	(662) 779-0587
Lucedale, MS	(601) 947-8444
Macon, MS	(662) 726-4925
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McComb, MS	(601) 465-1047
Meadville, MS	(601) 384-4254
Mendenhall, MS	(601) 847-0310
Meridian, MS	(601) 482-0109
Monticello, MS	(601) 587-7030
Morton, MS	(601) 732-6606
Natchez, MS	(601) 445-8728
New Albany, MS	(662) 486-1000
Oxford, MS	(662) 234-2210
Philadelphia, MS	(601) 656-7444
Picayune, MS	(601) 798-0313
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Port Gibson, MS	(601) 437-3250
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Ripely, MS	(662) 502-1000
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Sardis, MS	(662) 503-1000
Senatobia, MS	(662) 366-1000
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Sumner, MS	(662) 505-1000
Tunica, MS	(662) 373-1000
Tupelo, MS	(662) 842-0304
Tylertown, MS	(601) 876-9040
Vicksburg, MS	(601) 636-1163
Water Valley, MS	(662) 506-1000
Waynesboro, MS	(601) 735-2004
Wesson, MS	(601) 643-2451
West Point, MS	(662) 391-1000
Wiggins, MS	(601) 928-5852
Winona, MS	(662) 535-1000
Woodville, MS	(601) 888-4911
Yazoo City, MS	(662) 746-0605

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LARGE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

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Our solutions address Large Businesses with more than 500 employees. To see how Time Warner provide a communications solution for this market segment, please read below.

Analog Services

Time Warner Telecom's Analog Services are provided as part of our Business Switched Services

Digital Services

Customers receive Digital Services through ISDN PRI and Digital Trunks.

Supplemental Services

Supplemental Services are additional services available for Time Warner Telecom's switched services to enhance their service.

Special Switched Services

Special Switched Services provide the capability for Time Warner Telecom customers to expand with little or no equipment investment. Historically referred to as 'foreign exchange' service, these products allow customers to obtain switched service in areas or even other cities without the need for a physical office in those cities.

- Business Expansion Service
- Expanded Exchange Service
- Intercity Switched Service
- Special Switched Services

Calling Plans

- Long Distance** - The Long Distance product suite is offered in conjunction with other Time Warner Telecom switched products to complete the switched product portfolio. Time Warner Telecom routes long distance traffic over their fiber-based regional networks and connects with various Tier 1 International carriers' long haul transport.
- Local** - Extended Calling Plans (where available) provide you with expanded outbound calling beyond your local calling area. Our plans are specifically designed to provide you expanded outbound calling at a reduced rate, which reduces your long distance expenses.

SONET

High capacity channels for full duplex, synchronous optical transmission of digital data.

Time Warner Telecom's SONET services are available in both point-to-point and multipoint ring configurations.

Dedicated Internet Access

Time Warner Telecom's high-performance Internet backbone is designed to provide flexibility, scalability, and security, while offering redundancy in the core.

Co-location Services

Co-location provides reliable and secure space in Time Warner Telecom's data centers to locate back up, remote, or virtual presence and obtain Wide Area Network services from Time Warner Telecom. Cabinets, cages, and/or racks are available depending on the market. We offer this service in 40 states.

Dedicated Web Hosting

Time Warner Telecom can handle large capacity requests when it hosts your web site.

Metro Ethernet NLAN

Time Warner Telecom's Native LAN service connects multiple business locations with a technology already used and understood - Ethernet.

Ethernet Internet Access

EIS provides Internet over Ethernet to customers requiring a scalable Internet solution. This service is delivered to customers who co-locate their Internet CPE in Time Warner Telecom's carrier-grade co-location facility (EIS) or delivered to the customer's premise (NLAN EIS).

Storage Transport (ESCON/Fibre Channel)

Using the most current technology, DWDM (Dense Wave Division Multiplexing), Time Warner Telecom can transport your native traffic, without any protocol translation to your secure site miles away. Time Warner Telecom will monitor the link for you, so you may spend your valuable time concentrating on your core business. Multiple paths will ensure that your traffic will get to its destination every time.

Wavelength/Lambda

Time Warner Telecom offers wavelength services that allow one or many direct interfaces to extra capacity point-to-point channels. Each wavelength has a standard capacity of either 2.5 Gbps or 10 Gbps.

DS1/DS3

Dedicated, high capacity, full duplex channel with line speed of 1.544/45 Mbps isochronous serial data.

Additional Information

Business Switched Services ☎

Time Warner Telecom offers business customers a "real" choice for local telephone service.

Co-Location Service ☎

Time Warner Telecom's Co-location Service supports your expanding network needs with a secure environment and dedicated space for your equipment and storage of your information.

Dedicated High Capacity Services ☎

Time Warner Telecom's Dedicated High Capacity Services offer a complete range of transmission rates from 1.5 Mbps to 10 Gbps.

Dedicated Internet ☎

Our Dedicated Internet Access Products deliver high-speed, dedicated connections that ensure a dedicated Internet bandwidth needed for critical data.

Digital Trunks ☎

Time Warner Telecom's digital facilities provide access to the Public Switched Telephone Network through state-of-the-art switches that will serve your business needs today and tomorrow.

ISDN PRI ☎

Time Warner Telecom's Integrated Services Digital Network Primary Rate Interface (ISDN PRI) provides access to the Public Switched Telephone Network through reliable state-of-the-art switches.

Long Distance Services ●

Time Warner Telecom offers specialized long distance business solutions that meet each individual's needs.

Native LAN ●

Connect your multiple business locations with a technology that you already use and understand

Special Switched Services ●

Time Warner Telecom customers can use Special Switched Services to expand into new markets without equipment investment.

Storage Transport Services ●

Time Warner Telecom offers a suite of services that will provide the best solution for your company's Channel, ESCON, or Ethernet transport for your metro needs.

Web Hosting ●

We empower your company to host web applications on a dedicated server that is tailored to meet your needs.

TIME WARNER TELECOM  **DRIVING YOUR NETWORK**

Corporate Offices 10475 Park Meadows Drive Littleton, CO 80124 303.566.1000.

For more information, contact corporate communication at 1.800.565.TWTC.

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TIME WARNER TELECOM

Delivering Networks... Empowering Business.

BUSINESS SWITCHED SERVICES

There's a new dial tone in town! Time Warner Telecom now offers business customers a "real" choice for local telephone service. We provide a variety of switched services for your local voice, data and video transport needs.

We built the most modern and powerful communications networks in the industry. State-of-the-art digital switches route communications traffic quickly and efficiently on our own leading-edge, SONET-based fiber optic networks. Backed by a modern National Operations Center and highly skilled local technicians, we offer virtually uninterrupted service to meet your telecommunications needs.

Call your local Time Warner Telecom representative for details about our business switched service offerings. Or call our National "Best" Customer Service Center at 1-888-333-0520. Here is a sample of our business switched services.

- **ISDN PRI:** Provides ISDN capabilities and efficiencies for your switched voice, data and video needs. Ask your local Time Warner Telecom representative for details.
- **Digital Trunks:** Flat, Measured or Message depending on local availability. Provide quality

connections to customer provided PBX equipment.

- Digital Facility
- Inward Digital Trunks
- Outward Digital Trunks
- Two-way Digital Trunks
- DID Service (available on Inward and Two-way Digital Trunks)

- **Business Lines:** Flat, Measured or Message depending on local availability. All provide customers with a quality analog voice grade telephone line available for use at any time.

- **Business Line Features:** (Discounts for multiple [2-6] feature purchases)
 - Call Waiting; Cancel Call Waiting
 - Call Forwarding; Call Forward Variable; Call Forward Busy;
 - Call Forward Don't Answer
 - Selective Call Forwarding
 - Remote Call Forwarding
 - Three-Way Calling
 - Speed Calling: 8 Number, 30 Number
 - Distinctive Ringing (up to two additional numbers)
 - Caller ID: with Number Delivery; with Name Delivery
 - Combined Caller ID Blocking: Per Line; Per Call
 - Continuous Redial
 - Last Call Return
 - Priority Call
 - Selective Call Rejection
 - Customer Originated Trace

- **Voice Messaging:** (Available in selected markets)
 - Basic, Enhanced, Deluxe, Deluxe Multi-Mailbox
 - Automated Attendant: First Tier, Additional Tier
 - Automated Attendant with Busy Hold: First Tier, Additional Tier,
 - Revert to Operator
 - Customer Design Consulting
 - Customized Reports

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES

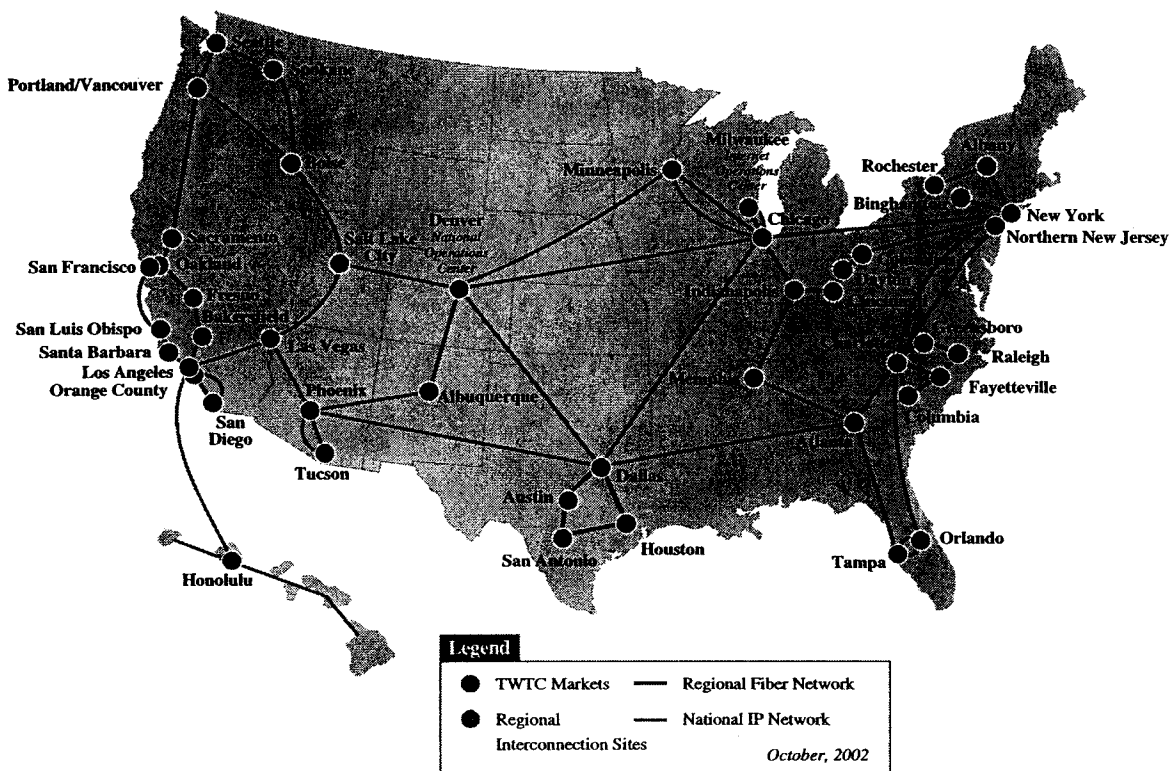
- **Telephone Numbers:**
 - Individual DID Numbers
- **Listings:** Main, Standard, Non-Published, Non-Listed.
 - Alternate Telephone Number/Night
 - Cross Reference, Additional Cross Reference
 - Duplicate, Additional Duplicate
 - Indented, Additional Indented
- **Hunting:**
 - Series Completion Hunting: Circular, Regular
 - Multi-Line Hunting: Circular, Regular, UCD
- **Blocking Services:**
 - 900 & 700 Blocking
 - Third Number and Collect Call Billing Restriction
 - Toll Restriction

Not all products and services are available in all markets. Please contact your local Time Warner Telecom representative for availability.

BUSINESS SWITCHED SERVICES

ABOUT TIME WARNER TELECOM

Time Warner Telecom is the leading provider of metro-area broadband optical networks and services to businesses. We deliver "last-mile" broadband data, voice, Dedicated Internet Access, and Dedicated Web Hosting in 44 major U.S. markets. Our strong financial position allows us to deliver powerful networks, robust products, and superior customer care to meet your needs. We're here for you today, tomorrow, and for the next 100 years.



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Networking >> Telecommunications**Time Warner Cable dials in phone service**

Last modified: May 22, 2003, 12:02 PM PDT

By Ben Charny and Evan Hansen
Staff Writers, CNET News.com

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SAVE

update AOL Time Warner's entry into voice service Thursday highlights the latest headache for regional phone companies, whose lock on the so-called local loop is looking increasingly precarious.

Read more about
DSL, telephony

Time Warner Cable's "Digital Phone" includes unlimited local, in-state and domestic long-distance telephone service for \$40 a month and will be initially available only in the Portland, Maine, area. Combined with similar offerings from cable providers such as Comcast and Cablevision Systems, major local phone companies across the country—sometimes called RBOCs (regional Bell operating companies)—are close to seeing the collapse of the last barriers to local phone competition.

"This is one of the big fears among the RBOCs, that cable companies will make a major push in local telephone markets," said Mark May, an analyst at Kaufman Bros. "Cox and Comcast have launched local services, and cable operators have made inroads offering telephone service at significant discount to the RBOCs."

After years of delay, real competition is finally making its way into the local residential telephone market, promising enormous industry upheavals similar to those that shook the long-distance market nearly two decades ago.

The number of local telephone lines controlled by the nation's major phone companies has been dropping steadily since 2001, according to In-Stat/MDR analyst Norm Bogen. In the first half of 2001, the RBOCs saw the number of local phone lines on their networks drop by about 2 percent. Since then, the trend has continued, with the Bells losing 4 percent of their local lines by the first half of 2002.

Bogen said there are three reasons for the declines. The main reason is the growing number of people replacing landline phones with cell phones, he said. But he added that more people are also choosing Internet-connected phones as a second phone line rather than going the traditional route. Consumers can choose between services provided over broadband connections using special software from companies such as Vonage DigitalVoice, as well as cable phone

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services such as Time Warner's offering announced Thursday.

Calling plans are the latest weapon cable providers are using as they battle for dominance of U.S. broadband services market. Nearly 60 percent of all U.S. homes get broadband from their cable television provider. The rest of the homes wired for broadband in the United States use digital subscriber line (DSL) connections from telephone companies.

The race to attract broadband customers has led some DSL services to slash prices; for example Verizon cut prices by about 30 percent in recent months to about \$30 for its voice service customers. Most cable broadband services by contrast charge between \$40 and \$50 a month, although they say they provide superior performance for the price.

As Time Warner's announcement Thursday shows, however, much more is at stake than broadband market share: While cable voice services are still in their infancy, the potential threat of a voice upgrade to cable broadband has turned what was once a fight over data services into an all-out war for telecommunications service in the home.

Cable and telephone companies use bundles of steeply discounted services to attract and keep customers. Cable companies sell television and broadband access at discounted rates, but only when bought as part of a package of services. Telephone companies offer similar deals on telephone and broadband connections.

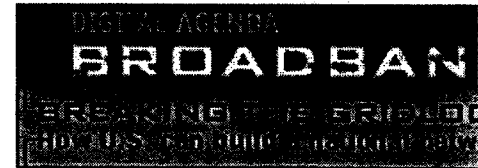
Until recently, telephone companies didn't worry about cable adding voice services into their bundles. But the growing sophistication of voice over IP, which turns voice calls into digital packets for dispatch over the Internet, allows cable companies to sell cable TV, telephone service and broadband connections on one bill. That's one more service—specifically cable television—than telephone companies can offer.

Comcast said it has signed up 1.4 million voice service subscribers in the first quarter of 2003, down slightly from the December quarter. That accounts for 16.5 percent of the company's cable subscribers in the areas where the service is offered. Cox, meanwhile, said it has signed up 782,546 voice service subscribers in the first quarter of 2003, accounting for 19 percent of its cable subscribers.

"We operate in a competitive market and we have a pretty good track record when going up against competition," said Keith Cocozza, a Time Warner Cable spokesman. He would not discuss the cable company's future release plans specifics, only saying: "We are going to take our time in the beginning."

In their current form, these new cable company phone services pose little threat—more like a novelty act—in places like Coatsville, Pa., where Comcast is trialing its telephone service. But if they were to be expanded substantially, "then the best way to describe this would be: 'wow,'" said In-Stat/MDR senior analyst Daryl Schooler.

"What does any of the major phone companies have on their bundle?

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Local and long-distance and data," Schooler said. "This move by the cable guys gives them local, long-distance voice, video and data all over one pipe."

There is very little evidence yet to gauge the effectiveness of cable companies' move into voice services. Both cable and DSL providers continue to add new subscribers, despite the economic doldrums. The largest VoIP provider for now is Vonage DigitalVoice, which has about 25,000 subscribers.

Digital Phone subscribers will get all the amenities they are used to, including caller ID and call waiting. They can also keep the same phone number if they are switching from another telephone service provider, according to a description of the calling plan from Time Warner Cable.

Whether the \$40 a month charge includes a converter—a small box that changes telephone signals to digital signals for transport over the Web—was not immediately clear.

News.com's Jim Hu contributed to this report.

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