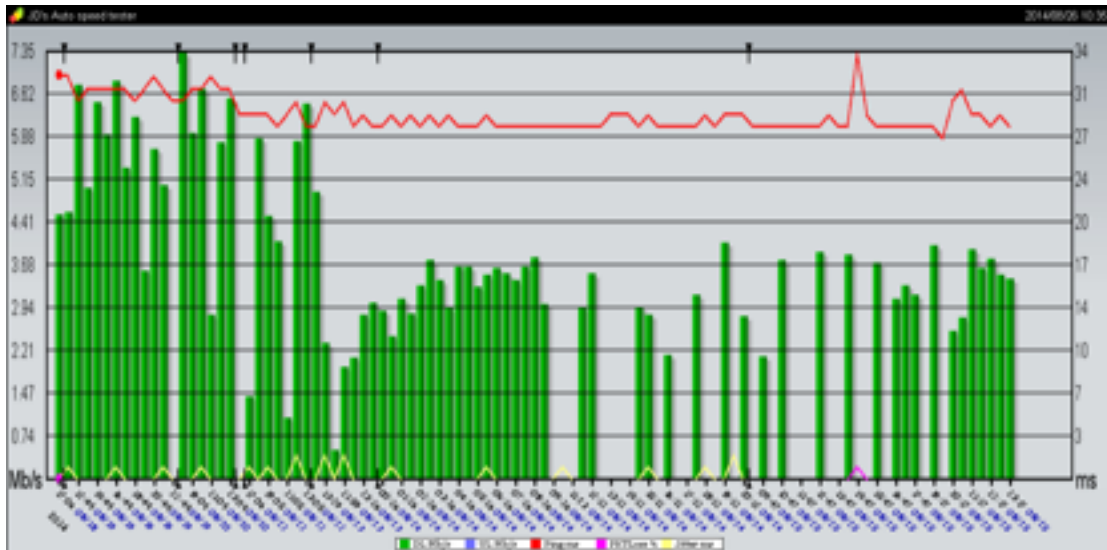


Connectivity & Getting Around

Some Broadband Matters

John Boal 3 September 2014

These last few weeks I have been researching my own broadband (BB) service from BT, whilst handicapped by a failed hard disk and the now unsupported Windows XP. Amongst a few attempts to clarify my web surfing experience I installed and employed a program “JD ‘s Auto Speed Tester” from gmwsoftware that hourly tests the speed of your PC’s link to selected remote web sites. The results are all logged and may be presented in a graphic form see below. A peak download of 7.35 Mbps, red line “pings” about 30 mes; yellow line jitter; and no recorded upload speed (but about 250 kbps). Unfortunately I’m not able to install this program on my second PC.



The central problem that I have with the above are the gaps where I appear to have no service at all – this consistent with my user experience. This might be due to many different causes and I have not got to the bottom of what the teal problem is – Window XP on an old machine or BT hub playing up; BT line intermittent impairments; congestion at BT exchange due to “Findon” overloading it’s capacity? The experience of other members of the group would be appreciated.

I have however signed up today (2 Sept) to take free delivery of an OfCom “approved” tester that will sit between my PC and its BT hub, constantly monitoring traffic in and out of the hub and all the attached devices – two PCs and a Wifi connected tablet. I’m assured there is no “snooping” on the content of the traffic only the amounts that come and go. This should give an “honest” appraisal of my BT broadband service but no results expected for another few weeks!

In the meantime I have – like others? – got BT’s expectations for Findon to get high speed BB off their web sites as maybe 18 months. I am unsure how much better things will then be, but if other BB connected member wish to check out their connection I can provide details on how to get testing their own service.

On the Slindon’s “Contact Us” email contacts there remains a deathly hush. Any Findon site should be better supported and maintained than Slindon’s.