

## **BENTON COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Benton Communications (the Company) invests significant resources to bring Internet access to our customers and strives to provide customers an optimum online experience that enables them to access all available content, including: up-to-date news and information, online shopping, communications tools, movies, video, music, gaming and an array of other online services, all within the realm of the Open Internet principle. Generally, the Company utilizes a best-efforts approach to deliver Broadband Internet Access Service so that customers experience speeds at or near the advertised levels.

Key attributes of the Company's network management are:

- it does not block, throttle, or inhibit any specific applications or classes of applications.
- it does not directly or indirectly favor some traffic over other traffic for the benefit of an affiliate, except as noted in specialized services below.
- it does not engage in paid prioritization.
- it does not restrict the types of devices that can be connected to its network as long as it is connected on the LAN side of Benton Communications approved modems.

Accordingly, this means that except as described in the Specialized Services section below, the Company does not prioritize one type of traffic or application over other types, however, the continuing explosive growth in Internet consumption may cause periodic congestion in the network that the Company must address. The Company uses network management tools to optimize quality of service to customers for applications that are sensitive to packet loss, delay or jitter like VoIP, time sensitive data, and video traffic.

Like other Internet service providers, the Company manages its network to provide customers a secure and optimal Internet experience. Generally, the Company monitors the flow of traffic on its network, including the amount of data sent to and from customer connections, the source and destination of data, and the type-but not the contents-of information sent and received. In limited circumstances, however, the Company may also review the contents of the information to determine whether it is malicious (such as spam or a virus) or when required by law. The Company continually upgrades its security and network management tools based on technology advances and network needs.

The Company generally allows customers to attach any lawful device to its network so long as it does not impede the provision of Internet access service, harm the network, enable theft of the service or a violation of the Company's [Acceptable Use Policy](#) or any terms of service, or harm other users of the service.

### **Customer Privacy and Rights**

Customers can consult the Company's general [Customer Privacy and Rights](#) of service as well as [Internet Pricing](#) plans for more information about their Internet service.

## **Service Performance**

Company Broadband Internet Access Service is provided by the technology that is available in your geographic area. Speeds available may be dependent on your location. The service speeds identified in the Company's marketing materials and other communications reflect maximum advertised speed and services provided will be "up to" those advertised. Actual speed experienced by a customer will vary based on multiple factors including inside wiring and customer equipment configuration, interference on the customer's line, website(s) accessed, and Internet congestion.

### **Speed Test Link**

Customers can determine the speed of their Broadband Internet Access Service connection at <http://speed.bctelco.net/>.

Latency is highly variable depending on the network path, other providers in the path, the distance to the destination, and performance of end destination server. Customers should expect roundtrip latency to most general Internet sites in the range from 10-75ms.

## **Specialized Services IP Video and VoIP**

In the future for certain customers, the Company may offer specialized services, such as IP Video or Voice of OP ("VoIP"), over the same customer facilities as broadband Internet access services. When the customer uses these specialized services, less bandwidth will be available for Broadband Internet Access Service than when they are not using the specialized service. When the specialized service is not in use, customers can, in most case, use the full facility capacity for broadband Internet access.

## **Security Policy**

The Company is dedicated to managing its network to ensure that all customers receive the most secure online experience. We use industry-leading security practices to manage our network, provide services to our customers, and ensure compliance with our [Acceptable Use Policy](#). These tools and practices may change from time to time to keep up with the new and innovative ways that customers use the network and to keep up with changing network technologies.

When malicious behavior is identified, the Company employs various techniques to ensure a positive customer experience. Our security management techniques include ensuring that customer systems are not propagating viruses, or distributing spam email, or engaging in other malicious behavior. We use industry best practices to prevent virus/span delivery to customer email accounts. We automatically detect and mitigate (Denial of Service) DOS attacks for our customers. If your IP address is identified as part of a DOS attack the system will stop all traffic to your IP address resulting in loss of service for the duration of the attack.

Specific security practices deployed by the Company may include but are not limited to:

**IP Spoofing Prevention:** The Company applies security measures to prevent an attacker within the network from launching IP spoofing attacks against these machines and flooding the network with unwanted data that can cause congestion.

**DoS/Distributed DoS Monitoring and Mitigation:** The Company applies security measures to prevent an attacker within the network from launching DoS or DDoS to ensure that customers can access the Internet when needed.

Other security practices to address viruses or malware: The Company may also block connections on other ports that are commonly used to exploit other customers or non-customer computers. The Company may also block sites that are used in a malicious manner to infect customers, perform fraud against them and otherwise as needed to protect our network and our customers.

### **Commercial Terms**

Customers can learn about specific pricing and service availability by calling the customer care number printed on their bills. Customers can access the Company's latest promotional and standard for Broadband Internet Access Service at [www.bctelco.net](http://www.bctelco.net).

The Company's current Broadband Internet Access Service offering does not include usage-based fees. For full terms and conditions, view Company's Internet Terms & Conditions & [Acceptable Use Policy](#).

### **Privacy Policy**

Like most companies, we have certain information about our customers and use it to provide our services. We also share it as needed to meet our business goals or to fulfill our legal obligations. We protect the information we have about our customers, and we require those with share it with to protect it too. We use information generated on our networks to manage those networks, to plan for future development, and to keep our services running reliably and efficiently. For example, we monitor data to check for viruses, to control spam, to prevent attacks that might disable our services, to ensure that your traffic does not violate our Internet Terms & Conditions & [Acceptable Use Policy](#), and to guard against other inappropriate or illegal activity. This may involve looking at the characteristics of our network traffic, such as traffic volumes, beginning and ending points of transmissions, and types of applications being used to send traffic across our network. In limited circumstances, we need to examine the content of the data (such as the specific Web sites being visited, files being transmitted, or application being used) for the purposes described above, in circumstances when we are concerned about fraud or harassment, to repair a problem we detect or that a customer contacts us about, or when we are providing the content of broadband traffic to law enforcement which we only do as authorized by law.

### **Redress Policy**

If you have any questions or complaints regarding Benton Communications Broadband Internet Access services and the subjects of this disclosure, you may call the customer care number printed on our bill or send us a message using our [Contact Us](#) page.

Please be sure to include the following information:

- Subject Broadband Internet Access Service Network Management Disclosure
- A brief summary of the nature of your concern

Benton Communications takes all such questions and complaints seriously. The appropriate Company personnel will review all such submissions and respond in a timely manner.