

Table 4. FCC's Household Broadband Guide

	Light Use (Basic functions: email, browsing, basic video, VoIP, Internet radio)	Moderate Use (Basic functions plus <i>one</i> high-demand application: streaming HD video, multiparty video conf., telecommuting, online)	High Use (Basic functions plus <i>more than one</i> high-demand application running at
1 user on 1 device	Basic	Basic	Medium
2 devices at a time	Basic	Medium	Medium/Advanced
3 devices at a time	Medium	Medium	<u>Advanced</u>
4 devices at a time	Medium	<u>Advanced</u>	<u>Advanced</u>

Basic Service = 3 to 8 Mbps

Medium Service = 12 to 25 Mbps

Advanced Service = More than 25 Mbps

For households with multiple internet users, it is highly recommended to purchase speeds higher than 25 Mbps, as in many internet service plans, the contracted speed is referred as “up to” or “a maximum of”. Therefore, households should subscribe to higher speeds, in case the internet service does not reach the maximum advertised or contracted speed.

Other residential broadband drivers²⁵ include the following:

- **Video services:** Video services provide a wide range of options including video streaming, video on demand (VoD), IP TV, video games and video conferencing. Real-time entertainment such as video streaming is responsible for most downstream bytes during peak periods²⁶.
- **Data services:** Web-browsing is responsible for approximately 10 percent of downstream data traffic during peak period Internet use. Data transfer is another application that is growing in demand and is commonly used in telecommuting. Downstream speeds impact the time websites take to fully load, and the time files take to transfer from servers to user's devices.
- **Voice services:** Voice services have been replacing traditional telephone service by allowing users to make phone calls using broadband connections; also called VoIP technology. Residential VoIP subscribers has been steadily increasing since 2008.
- **Social networking and cloud applications:** Social networking applications have increased in demand and cloud computing has also risen in demand due to its capability to allow users to store and access data and information (photos, music, emails, documents, etc.) over the Internet.

²⁵ Federal Communications Commission (FCC). (2015, February 4). *2015 Broadband Progress Report and Notice of Inquiry on Immediate Action to Accelerate Deployment*. Federal Communications Commission Hearing, Washington, D.C., FCC 15-10, 21-25.

²⁶ Sandvine Intelligent Broadband Networks, Global Internet Phenomena Report, 2H 2014 at 5 (2014), <https://www.sandvine.com/downloads/general/global-internet-phenomena/2014/2h-2014-global-internetphenomena-report.pdf>.