

Re: Qwest DLS & MSN Premium & Linksys Router & FreeBSD.. Oh my

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From: Gary W. Swearingen (garys_at_opusnet.com)

Date: 10/25/05

To: Kris Anderson <ciscoaix@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, 25 Oct 2005 11:51:21 -0700

Kris Anderson <ciscoaix@yahoo.com> writes:

> *I'm getting off cable (Comcast and 6 megabits) and*

Good move.

> *Their fine print -*

Don't forget the finer print. "Invisible print" might be a better term; good luck even finding it before committing yourself. More below.

> *home phone pac kage (\$24.99 otherwise), free*

Check out which "phone pac" that is. I doubt very much if regular phone service is considered to be a home phone pac; I managed to find (after considerable searching) their page for ordering non-pac phone service to get a 12.50 basic service (before more than that in various fees and taxes, one which seems to be part of their taxes — grrr).

> *restrictions may apply. MSN ISP requires agreement to*

> *MSN Acceptable Use Policy.*

Yeah, after considerable searching I found a "MSN Subscription Agreement" link at <http://support.msn.com/> which took me to a member sign-in form. Do you really want to do business with a company that does business like that?

> *So am I right in still thinking that with MSN as the*

> *ISP my setup it isn't going to be FreeBSD friendly and*

> *that my spiffy little Comcast setup isn't going to*

> *work with MSN as the ISP?*

I can't help you; and I wouldn't help MSN if I could. I know I first bought a (used) modem that was "guaranteed" to work with

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Qwest and a non-MSFT ISP, but I later learned that it would only work with Qwest+MSN and had to pay a "restocking" fee to get most of my money back. Grrr.

I found what seems (in about 5 mo) to be a good ISP at opusnet.com . Relatively good contract terms and in actual practice, so far. And about as cheap as they come.

Note that _almost_ all ISPs have indemnity clauses whereby you agree to pay their legal and other costs if some third party makes claims against the ISP which involve you in any way, whether or not you've done anything wrong in most such clauses. Another factor is how far away the courthouse and your lawyer would be.

Last time I looked, Quest had no indemnity clause for their pure DSL service, but they had one in their ISP contract and, of course, MSN does too. I say "of course", but I should note that MSN.net is one of increasingly-few web sites that has no indemnity clause in the site-use contract. Even such "open source" sites as Slashdot have them these days. I assume the risk of using such sites in read-only mode, but seldom, if ever, post anything to them. BTW, my insurance guy knows of no personal insurance against such indemnity risks.

I bought a DSL modem at Fry's for about 10 \$ more than Qwest's, mostly because Qwest has given me many reasons to dislike and distrust them and partly because my modem has a 2-yr guarantee. It is a Zoom ADSL X5 and seems to work fine and was easy to configure once I got past some problem that I had with Mozilla not accessing the modem's configuration web forms correctly. (I've already forgotten the cause.) Beware that the Zoom modem package says in big print that it comes with DSL filters and in fine print it says how many it comes with, which I didn't notice was _zero_. Grrr.)

With the Zoom modem, at least, you may configure it to run DHCP and give the modem a fixed (eg, 10.something) IP address or run DHCP on whatever you connect to the modem. The Zoom X5 is also a 4-port router, but this one was not wireless like the Qwest modem.

Finally, beware that a few weeks ago DSL providers like Qwest got permission (from the US gov) to refuse to do business (after 2005, IIRC) with good ISPs like opusnet.com, so don't be suprised if your choice in 2006 is between Qwest+MSN and Comcast+Comcast. Grr.

-- Grry

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