

Internet Use Still Rising Fast

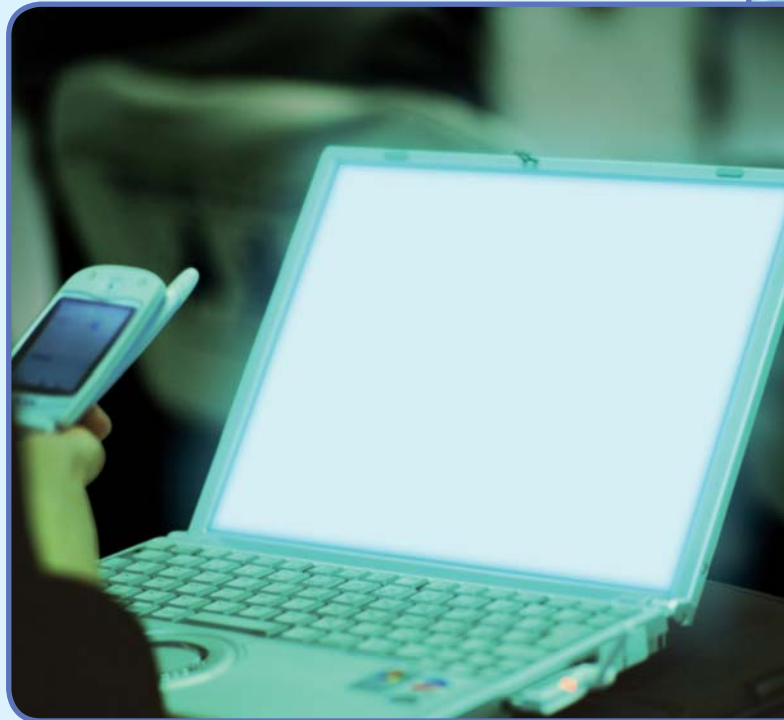
Latest figures from comScore Networks tell us that internet use is still rising. In January 747 million people throughout the world used the internet, a 10% increase over the same month last year.

Much of this steady rise can be attributed to developing countries which in some cases have more than doubled their internet usage in the last 12 months. China now has the second highest number of internet users after the USA, with 86.8 million users. Japan and Germany follow close behind.

Not surprisingly, users with Broadband connections tend to spend more time online and connect more frequently. In the UK for example, Broadband surfers spend around 5 times longer online than dial-up users. That said, it seems there have been a 'significant' number of complaints about UK broadband suppliers according to Telecoms industry regulator Ofcom.

Many of these were directed at ISPs who were in the process of being taken over, or were introducing additional services to the customer.

Canadians top the poll for 'most time spent online' averaging 39.6 hours per month, with the US following at 31.6 hours just ahead of the UK at 31.2 hours. The US still has the biggest online population with around 153 million internet users - that's 2% up on last year.



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