

The Turbo Hub



Over the years, we've witnessed many ways to get connected to the internet

This year is different; we've got ourselves a Bell Turbo hub. The turbo hub is a 3G WIFI router, and several things all rolled into one shiny box. A bunch of carriers are selling them. Rogers calls it a "rocket hub". In this case, the choice of Bell came down to a convenient Bell store and in this location, Bell signal strength is consistently strong. Your mileage may vary.

The Bell/Ericsson Turbo hub is great! You just plug this one device and one cord into the wall, and bingo you've got an active internet hotspot. Your network starts with WPA security by

default, with the network code printed on the back of the device. This is case sensitive.

The hub also has jacks for everything: 4 wired Ethernet ports, a USB port for network storage, and phone jacks for phone service. But, for most people, 3G to WIFI is probably what you are buying it for.

For basic connectivity, the big advantage of a hub compared to a stick is that it connects several devices (the whole household) instead of just one. Like most data devices still out there, the hub only supports 7.2MBps 3G so you will see effective speeds close to that of 5MB DSL.

This unit is extremely easy to set up providing phone service, USB storage and Ethernet.

Voice service can be added to the HUB permitting the use of a landline telephone for an additional \$20.00 per month.

The HUB costs \$149.95 with a two year basic data plan costing \$35.00 per month. This service allows 3GB usage and additional charges would be made on a sliding scale for excess usage.

If you do the math you will find that for very little added cost you can have the high speed internet connection you wanted.

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