

K ISP's - By Darren Edwards

I have a small belief that using the Internet should cost as little as possible with a good level of quality service, it should be for everyone. Am I being unpractical? Of course not! ISP's [Internet Service Providers] should remember that they NEED our custom, not us paying for the 'priviledged' of us using them. With this in mind I thought 1984 should see who's in touch with their users, skip the brightly coloured packaging and intelligent installers lets just jump straight in to what matters most; good service that's conveniently priced. I found nearly 250 ISP's but only these on this page managed to land with in I think my reasonable criteria.

To find out who was providing the best value of service and product I needed some sort of criteria. These are what I look for in an ISP for a normal Internet and email user:

Must support Mac access [obviously]

Yearly costs must not be more than £145.00

Set up costs should be less than £12.00, preferable nothing

No monthly costs over £12.00 with VAT

Web space given must be 5mb or more

Must be unlimited access, not charging after a certain numbers of hours

Must have local call rate covering the whole country

All must support a maximum of at least 33.6 speed modems if not 56-flex

1Way - 0117 9414141 • www.1way.co.uk

WebSpace: unlimited Set up £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £141.00

AAP InterNet - 0181 4271166 • www.aapi.co.uk

WebSpace: 5mb Set up £11.75 Monthly £12.91 Yearly £133.95

Amity Internet - 0500 200171 • www.amity.co.uk

WebSpace: 5mb Set up £0.00 Monthly £11.63 Yearly £116.33

BT Internet - 24hr tech 0800 800001 • www.btinternet.com
WebSpace: 10mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £129.75

CableNet - 01424 830900 • www.cablenet.net
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £9.95 Yearly £119.40

ClaraNET Ltd - 24hr tech0800 3582828 • www.clara.net
WebSpace: 25mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.63 Yearly £116.33

Cybase Ltd - 0151 2274244 • www.cybase.co.uk
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £117.50

DIALnet PLC - 24hr tech 0990 665665 • www.dialnet.co.uk
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £141.00

Direct Net @ccess - 01232 201555 • www@d-n-a.net
WebSpace: 10mb Setup £11.75 Monthly £8.82 Yearly £105.75

Eclipse Networking Limit - 01392 202345 • www.eclipse.co.uk
WebSpace: 10mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £9.40 Yearly £112.80

Enterprise plc - 01624 677666 • www.enterprise.net
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £117.50

EntWeb - 0800 525470 • www.entweb.co.uk
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.67 Yearly £117.50

Force9 - 0800 0737800 • www.force9.net
WebSpace: 15mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £9.99 Yearly £98.70

Freedom2surf - 0181 8812111 • www.freedom2surf.net
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £141.00

Internet Alliance Exchan - 0800 0520523 • www.iax.net
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £0.00 Yearly £46.95

k-WEB - 24hr tech - 0500 751111 • www.k-web.co.uk
WebSpace: 10mb Setup £11.75 Monthly £11.69 Yearly £129.25

Luna Internet - 01782 855655 • www.luna.co.uk
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £11.75 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £117.50

Madhouse Net - 0800 0748283 • www.madhouse.uk.com
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £141.00

NetDirect Internet - 0800 7313311 • www.netdirect.net.uk
WebSpace: 25mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £10.56 Yearly £126.76

Nildram - 0800 0720400 • www.nildram.co.uk
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £117.50

Pipemedia OnLine - 24hr - 01455 828218 • www.pipemedia.co.uk
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £117.50

Prestel On-line - 24hr - 0990 223300 • www.prestel.co.uk
WebSpace: unlimited Setup £0.00 Monthly £10.56 Yearly £117.48

Scotland Online - 24hr - 0800 0272027 • www.scotland.net
WebSpace: 10mb Setup £11.75 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £141.00

SoftProg Net - 0181 7880656 • www.softprog.net
WebSpace: 5 Setup £8.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £141.00

The Internet Business - 01232 424190 • www.tibus.net
WebSpace: 10mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £8.81 Yearly £105.00

Timewarp - 0161 9508855 • www.timewarp.co.uk
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £117.50

UK Online Ltd - 24hr tec - 01749 333333 • www.ukonline.co.uk
WebSpace: unlimited Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.99 Yearly n/a

Virgin Net - 24hr tech - 0500 558800 • www.virgin.net
WebSpace: 10mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.99 Yearly £143.88

Wave Rider - 24hr tech - 0121 6033888 • www.waverider.co.uk
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.74 Yearly £117.49

ZetNet Services Ltd - 01595 696667 • www.zetnet.co.uk
WebSpace: 10mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £10.00 Yearly £100.00

Zulu Internet - 01494 758895 • www.zulu.co.uk
WebSpace: 5mb Setup £0.00 Monthly £11.75 Yearly £129.25

It was strange to see Global Internet, Easy Net, Demon and the likes of CompuServe missing. These ISP's failed in one or more areas of the criteria. Mind you should have heard the bull I was getting from some slippery ISP's I will not mention, wanted me NOT to mention certain prices and just put N/A so they did not look bad, unlucky guys!

Ok I can understand that businesses and specialised users will need to make a more careful selection, but a massive amount of the people joining the Internet each day get

ripped off until they grow wiser to the hidden costs. I also still can't understand why All ISP's cannot provide 24 hour technical support. The large majority of online surfers are home users and they will use the Internet outside office hours.

My main tip is go to:

www.telinco.co.uk

I have based my findings on simple no messing service costs. If you require more services such as multiple email addresses, mail forwarding, ISDN, larger bandwidth and lease lines then you'll need to dig deeper. 1984's site will have a full UK ISP guide online shortly, including many not mentioned here.

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