

We went over the basics of what a server is, in the ezpak titled *What Is A Server*. What we want to do here is just touch a little on the support items needed to allow a server to work. Is that okay?....too bad...we're gonna do it anyway.

A server by itself is useless. It requires a "team" of items to allow it to do its job. These items are many, so we will explain just the overall basics.

Since a server can be anywhere in the world, the info requested by you has to get there and back somehow. This is accomplished by companies that offer communications for both voice and data.

There is no one system for all servers. If you live in California and want to see a web site on a server in New York, your request to the server will travel through many different communication systems. This is usually called a "route", and each section from one company to another is a "hop". If you want to see a site from Florida, you will take another route, with a whole different set of hops. The number of hops are different for every request.

The communications can be via hardwired systems, satellites, fiber optics, etc.

Now, on the server end, the signal enters the building through a modem, just like your modem at home.....but on a higher level of complexity. Then it enters a group of equipment that processes the request by a first come first serve system. If the server consists of multiple computers, this equipment routes the request to whichever computer is available.

This is the basics, and is how a very busy site can still serve itself up to you in a respectable speed. This is generally referred to as power of a server.

As with computers, all of this equipment between your computer and a server has different levels of capabilities. So the "speed" of a web site depends not only on the server equipment, but also on everything in between your computer and the server.

Also, one idea that has been "programmed" into our minds is the fact that the faster speed our home modems have, the faster the web site will load....this is not 100% true. You must remember....really, you must....that there is so much more involved than just your modem.

So remember that if your modem is faster than the rest of the equipment involved, you won't see any different by having a faster modem, as a general rule of thumb.

Finally... TIPPER Says...the term MODEM is sort of an acronym that stands for **MO**dulator **DE**Modulator. These are electronic terms; meaning simply that the signal is changed on one end to travel the system, and changed back at the other end so the computer can read it.

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