

The hidden perils of DSL

By *srlinuxx*

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If you spend a lot of time online, you need a broadband Internet connection. Cable companies were the first to offer it to consumers, and telephone companies followed some time later with ADSL (or DSL, as it's more commonly called). At this point, there is often little speed difference between the two, but there is more to consider than just speed. DSL services often contain hidden limitations (including one that may put your safety at risk), hassles, and costs that you won't find out about until you've signed up.

Home security system troubles

Did you know that installing DSL service in your home requires you to put line filters on all of your telephones? More importantly, if you have a home security system that uses the phone line to communicate with its tracking service, you will need to install a line filter on it. Since the majority of consumers (even tech-savvy ones) don't have the electrical expertise to accomplish this, they have to rely on the security company to install it. Such companies charge an upfront fee (\$20-\$30) for the filter, and more money to come out and install it. The alternative is to get a cellular connection for your security service, but that costs more money, too - if it's even available to you.

If you don't install the line filter on your security system, it will not be able to communicate with the security company. So if someone breaks into your house, or if a fire starts during the night, you will not be protected by the security system's automatic emergency contact capabilities.

Kiss SMTP goodbye

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