



Answer Quest Tip Sheet

October 2000 -- The Answer To Your Technology Questions



IS THERE REALLY SUCH A THING AS "FREE" INTERNET ACCESS?

It's that time of year again when we say goodbye to Summer, here's Fall and straight into Winter. And as the colder weather starts to set in, everyone starts thinking of indoor activities to keep themselves busy.

So for all of you who have a computer but do not have Internet Access yet, this newsletter is going help introduce you to several FREE Internet Service Providers (ISP for short).

A lot of people have told me it's the cost of the Internet access that stops them from having it. If you don't mind seeing ads displayed on your desktop while you surf the net, then these Free ISPs are for just for you.

In this newsletter are links to sites where you can download the necessary software. You ask "If I don't have Internet access how do I download the software?" Don't worry, right now I can tell you about Kmart's BlueLight.com service.

A trainer friend recommends BlueLight to all her customers. It is sponsored by Kmart and Yahoo. This means you can now walk into any Kmart store and pick up the BlueLight CD for free -- take it home, load the software and THAT's IT! You now have Free Internet Access at home.

I've also been told if you use a MAC, AltaVista is a good choice. Their Free Internet Access software works really and has a good selection of dial-in numbers (this is how you access the service).

Also, NetZero has been recommended to me by several people. A tech friend said when he went on vacation this summer to Ocean City, his regular ISP didn't have a dial-up number for the area -- but NetZero did! So he uses NetZero whenever he travels.

Why are dial-up numbers so important? The dial-up number is what you use to get into the Free ISP to

use their services. Some have wide range of numbers for many locations. Some do not. You can check this out on their website or when you call to order a CD, ask them if there is a local number in your area.

Privacy issues should also be on top of your list. To get this for FREE, they normally collect marketing data about you and your family. You should read their privacy statement before signing up. I do recommend if you have a Post Office Box to use that instead of your physical street address. Also if any information is marked OPTIONAL, don't fill it out unless you WANT to volunteer that information. Some information is required and you have to enter it to continue with the installation.

And last but not least, remember, when you use Free Internet Access they will normally track your usage. This is so they can direct ads to your desktop according to the websites you surf.

For more great tips before signing up, go to <http://www.addlebrain.com/freeinternetaccess/tips.html>

To read up on the different Free ISPs go to <http://www.addlebrain.com/freeinternetaccess/services/index.html>

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This site, <http://freebies.about.com/shopping/freebies/cs/internetservices/index.htm>, has a good listing of the Free ISPs available.

And this site, <http://www.freedomlist.com/find.php3?country=USA>, you can search for the Free ISP in your area no matter where you are in the USA.

<http://familyinternet.about.com/parenting/familyinternet/library/weekly/aa091499.htm> gives you a comparison between AltaVista and NetZero.

And as I promised, below are the three companies I mentioned above and information on how to order a CD or download the software.

See ya on the 'Net!

BlueLight

call (888) 945-9255 to order CD for free
or go to Kmart store to pick up CD
or download at <http://www.bluelight.com/freeinternet>

PC & Mac versions

(although the CD I picked up at store said it does not have MAC on it)

AltaVista

download only at <http://tools.altavista.com>

PC & Mac versions

NetZero

call (800) 333-3633 to order CD (\$3.50 for shipping)
or download at <http://www.netzero.com>

PC version only (but it indicates a MAC in the future)



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