

There's a multitude of issues that may be affecting your Internet experience such as distance from your router, processing speed of your device, signal

THE DETAILS

interference and even the provider capability at the other end of that site your trying to view.... but here's a few simple tips that you can try that will improve your Freedom Internet connection speed.

INTERNET-CONNECTED DEVICES In most cases, your unused Internet-connected devices

TURN OFF ANY UNUSED OR EXTRA

are sipping marginal amounts of your bandwidth. However, if you have multiple phones, tablets, smart TVs, computers, smart home devices, and video game consoles sharing your home network, all of that data usage can add up and result in reduced available bandwidth. Additionally, you may think that your devices are sitting idle, but if they're on, they're likely still using data. Many

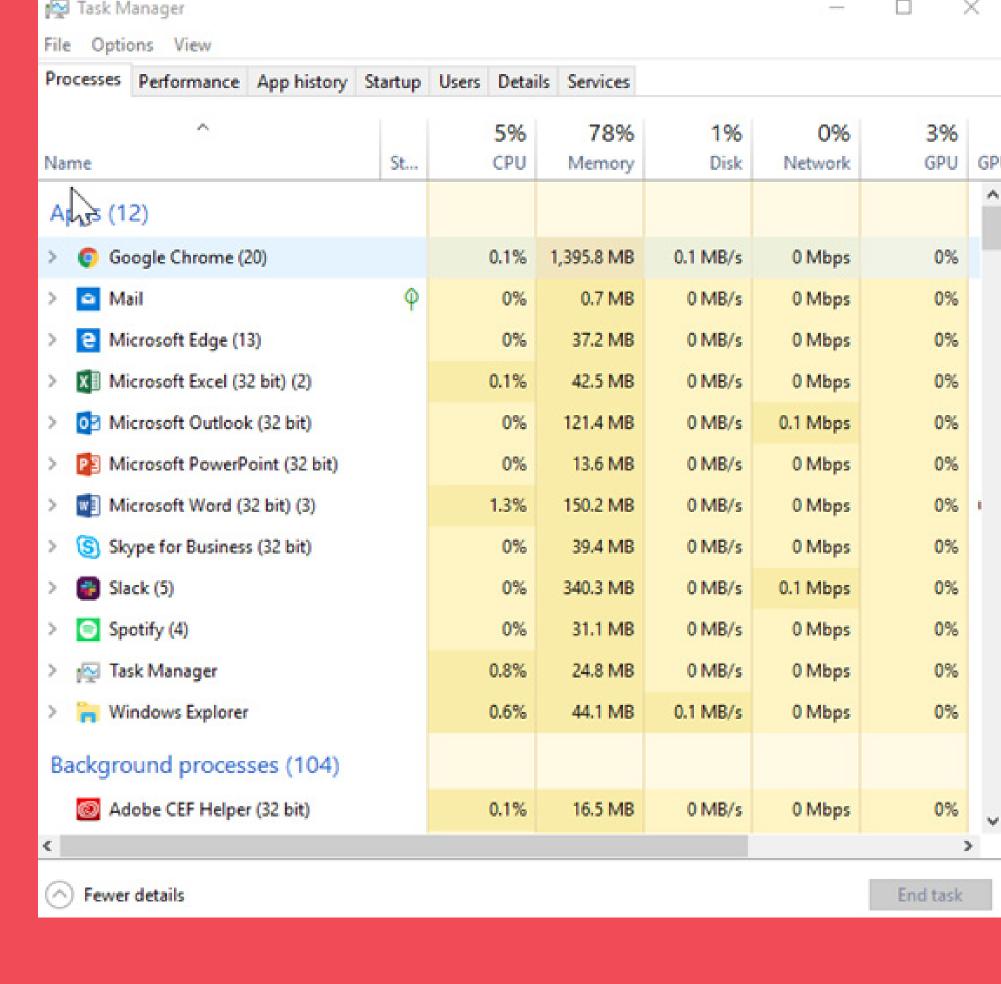
devices are now set to automatically download and install updates as they become available. That's not just system updates, either. That includes individual app updates. And if you're running a lot of smart home devices, these may be drawing a large amount of bandwidth as they are often always on and will likely automatically install firmware updates. As such, you could have multiple devices downloading updates regularly and simultaneously throughout the day without your knowledge.

TIP 002

SHUT DOWN UNUSED AND UNWANTED BACKGROUND PROCESSES ON YOUR PC OR MOBILE DEVICE While most applications on your computer or mobile aren't

constantly drawing on your available bandwidth, some are designed to continuously upload and download data. Web browsers are a key offender, as are online file storage applications like Dropbox. On a Windows computer, you can check your Task Manager to see which apps are pulling down data. You

can get to Task Manager by typing in "Task Manager" in your system search bar or by pressing ALT+CTRL+DEL and selecting Task Manager from the menu. Task Manager File Options View Processes Performance Apphistory Startup Users Details Services



There's a chance that software, not hardware, is at the

TIP 003 FIND A SOFTWARE SOLUTION

your computer.

You may want to try the following software fixes: **Update your web browser**

heart of your Internet problems. Software issues can

range from old network card drivers to viruses infecting

Are you using the latest version of your Internet browser? If not, you'll want to update to the newest version

available. Alternatively, you might want to explore various other web browsers to see which one might offer you the

fastest, most secure browsing experience. Here's how different browsers can affect your speed and speed test results: Internet Explorer 11

PING **O** DOWNLOAD ① UPLOAD SHARE $\oslash \odot \odot \odot$ Mbps Result ID 7099193898

Microsoft Edge **O** DOWNLOAD 9 PING

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Mbps

(U) DOWNLOAD

quickly websites and video streams load.

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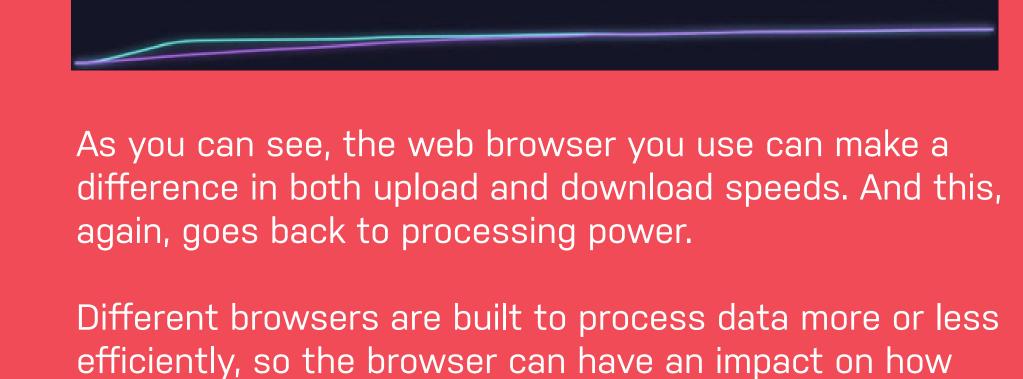
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Google Chrome

ms

PING



Speedtest app were marginal, but all three outclassed Microsoft's browsers by a large margin. Clear your web browser cache

The differences between Chrome, Firefox and the separate

Your browser stores cookies and other files to help you load sites faster. However, the cache can also be the reason you might find slower page loading results or loading errors. Clearing cache can help load pages and services faster in the long run.

Mysteriously slow connections could also be the result of a virus on your computer. Malware, spyware or other types of viruses could be hiding on your system, sending

TIP 004 ONLY USE 1 FIREWALL AT A TIME

Run an antivirus

Additionally, malware could be drawing on your processing power, resulting in a similar effect on the infected machine. We suggest starting with a free antivirus or malware removal program first. Beyond that, you may find some valuable protection using a paid malware removal option.

using up a chunk of your available bandwidth.

and receiving data. As a result, you could be getting less

speed than you want because a virus on your machine is

It's likely that your operating system automatically puts up a firewall for your Internet connection. A firewall is a form of network security that filters your incoming and outgoing data. It's designed to prevent security breaches onto your system, although it's far from perfect. Simply by the nature of its operation, a firewall will slightly slow down your potential Internet speeds. If you happen to have additional software installed,

such as a virtual private network (VPN) or antivirus, you

may experience additional slowdowns as well as these

services may add additional layers that result in slower

connection speeds. Antivirus programs often include their own firewalls on top of the one already included with your operating system, while VPNs add multiple layers of protection to your connection and ultimately lead to decreased download speeds. To increase your speed, you may want to go down to just one firewall. And if you're using a VPN, you may want to turn it off when you need to increase your download speeds. (Of course, if your needs require the use of a

TIP 005 UPDATE YOUR EQUIPMENT

VPN, you may need to investigate switching to a VPN that offers faster speeds through its servers.)

Old equipment could be the direct cause of your slow

the best out of available bandwidth.

Internet connection. Old and outdated computers, laptops,

mobile devices, or other equipment struggle with getting

If you're using an older computer, mobile device, gaming system, or other Internet-connected equipment, it cannot work with newer standards. Most new devices will support older wireless standards, but older equipment won't work with a standard that didn't exist when they were manufactured. As such, you'll be speed-limited. Here's a good example of what using an older computer on a new network might look like.

I ran a speed test on my current computer which has the following specs:

Windows 10

Asus ZenBook

Intel Core i5-7000 CPU @ 2.50Ghz 8.00 GB RAM 64-bit Operating System, x64-based processor • 802.11n wireless adapter

66.06 Mbps

Share Tweet Share Mail

Your Results

Average Speed

Meanwhile, I ran a speed test on an older computer with these specs: HP Envy Windows 8.1 Intel Core i5-4200M @ 2.50 GHz

Link

http://www.internethealthtest

• 6.00 GB 64-bit Operating System, x64-based processor

Your Results

- 64-based processor 802.11b/g/n wireless adapter
- With noticeably worse results:

Average Speed 48.05 Mbps Share Tweet Share Mail Link http://www.internethealthtes There was a significant difference between the two speed

tests. The older laptop's more limited processing power

the more limited processing power often results in more

resulted in slower Internet speeds. In fact, on the HP Envy,

Stay connected with Freedom!