

A history of OMU Internet offerings

OMU first offered internet access in 1997 via dial-up service provided by Mach III enterprises. It started with 3 packages consisting of a basic package with 10 hours of access for \$14.95 and a residential/business unlimited for \$19.95/\$28.95. These rates were increased by \$3.00 in 1998. Starting mid 1999 the two unlimited plans were limited to 250 hours of access and a 350-hour plan was added for \$39.95. If you exceeded your allotted hours, you were automatically disconnected and had to pay a reconnect fee. These dial-up plans and rates stayed the same until dial-up was discontinued in 2011.

In late 2003 high speed internet access via the cable system was added with the following packages:

Speed	Residential	Business
256Kbps / 128Kbps	\$45.95	\$55.95
512Kbps / 128Kbps	\$59.00	\$69.00
768Kbps / 384Kbps	\$79.00	\$89.00
1Mbps / 384Kbps	\$99.00	\$109.00

Since this original offering, OMU increased speeds several times at no additional cost to our customers:

2007

Speed	Residential	Business
1.5Mbps / 128Kbps	\$45.95	\$55.95
1.5Mbps / 384Kbps	\$59.00	\$69.00
3Mbps / 128Kbps	\$79.00	\$89.00
3Mbps / 384Kbps	\$99.00	\$109.00

2008

Speed	Residential	Business
3Mbps / 512Kbps	\$45.95	\$55.95
3Mbps / 1Mbps	\$59.00	\$69.00
5Mbps / 512Kbps	\$79.00	\$89.00
5Mbps / 1Mbps	\$99.00	\$109.00



720 Chestnut St.
Osage, IA
50461

PHONE 641-832-3731
FAX 641-732-5498
MAIL support@omu.email
WEBSITE osage.net

2012 In 2012 OMU re-classified packages for easier management and added a "lite" package.

Speed	Residential	Business
1Mbps / 512Kbps	\$29.95	\$29.95
10Mbps / 2Mbps	\$45.95	\$55.95
15Mbps / 4Mbps	\$65.95	\$75.95
25Mbps / 10Mbps	\$99.95	\$249.95

2013

Speed	Residential	Business
2Mbps / 1Mbps	\$45.95	\$55.95
20Mbps / 4Mbps	\$59.00	\$69.00
30Mbps / 8Mbps	\$79.00	\$89.00
50Mbps / 16Mbps	\$99.00	\$189.95
130Mbps / 30Mbps	\$199.95	\$249.95

2015 This is where we are currently, and was OMU's first price increase in 12 years of offering high speed internet

Speed	Residential	Business
2Mbps / 1Mbps	\$29.95	\$29.95
25Mbps / 5Mbps	\$49.95	\$59.95
40Mbps / 10Mbps	\$69.95	\$79.95
125Mbps / 25Mbps	\$99.95	\$109.95



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While the advantages of having a community owned broadband system may not always be evident, it has had the advantage of a \$5.00 increase over 14 years of locally owned service. What makes this even more amazing is that this included numerous equipment upgrades and man hours to get to where we are today. With the recent investment that OMU has made in fiber to Minnesota, we are on the path to better service to the community.

The next year will bring some improvements to the system as we do some major updates to our current equipment to better take advantage of our new fiber connectivity. Once these upgrades are completed, we will be able to dramatically increase our offerings on the current system. This, however, will come with a minor price increase.

We also know that some people may be wondering about fiber to the home. This is on our radar, but currently we feel we can provide comparable service on the current cable system. At the end of 2018, the final bond payment for the current cable system will be made. At this time, OMU can instead start saving this money to allow us to place fiber to the home in the next 5-7 years, and pay for it out of available funds, rather than bonding again. While "Gigabit" to the home is the current buzz word, the majority of people do not currently need access to those speeds. To put this in perspective, OMU generally only breaks a gigabit of traffic a couple of times a week, for our entire customer base. That being said, if/when the need arises, we will be able to do gigabit service on the current cable network.



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