

**Q: Why is my computer modem slow?**

**A: The computer world has its share of misinformation. One is the measurement of the 56K modem, which rarely delivers a speed of more than 50K. You have to read the fine print to discover these gotchas.**

**In truth, most Web surfers will not perceive much difference in a 48K or 52K connection. However, for some users living in older areas where the wiring is 30 to 40 years old, a 28K connection may result. This will definitely cause a detectable lag in loading Web pages. If you are fortunate to live in a charming older area, there isn't much you can do about slower dial-up connections. The ideal solution is to get a cable modem or Digital Subscriber Line hookup. That is, if you spend at least an hour a day on the Internet. If not, the increased cost probably won't justify the increase in speed.**

**Another problem that afflicts some in older areas is frequent disconnects. One way to deal with this is to go into the Control Panel and select Modem. Choose the type of modem in your computer, then click on Properties. You'll see a Connections tab. Choose Port Settings and move the Receive Buffer setting down a couple of clicks. This should help with the disconnect issue.**

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