

Let's get mobile on information highway

You may be mobile on United States highways, but what about the information highway? I am talking about the internet and your computer. More and more travelers are carrying lap top computers. They are wonderful and easy to handle. Wouldn't it be nice if you could pull over anywhere along side the road and log onto the internet?

The time has come. I am excited about this. You no longer have to be out of touch while you are on the road. You no longer have to wait for your phone line to be set up in your new apartment in order to be active on the internet. I am still in the process of researching all the options out there. Several cell phone companies have started or are planning to start similar programs that allow you to access the internet at specific locations such as Starbucks Cafe and Borders Book Store with the use of your own lap top computer.

Also, many of the cell phone companies are going beyond specific locations to wireless internet anywhere in the United States, where they have significant wireless phone signals. All you have to do is buy a phone card and you can log on practically anywhere. The card is about the size of a credit card and slides into a compartment in your computer. The only additional fees are monthly fees charged by the wireless phone company for the privilege of logging on wireless. The monthly fee is usually something inexpensive such as \$30 to \$50 dollars a month. How cool is that?

If your computer is very new you may not even need an 802.11b card to go into the computer. Some of the new computers already have wireless capability built into them. Otherwise, you can purchase the card at the cell phone company or at a local computer stores for a small fee (\$30 to 80 dollars). Just ask for the 802.11b card and then call the cell phone company and sign up for their monthly wireless internet service.

Recently, I was writing an article at one of the local Starbuck Coffee Shops in town on my lap top when someone approached me to ask if I was using Starbucks wireless internet system. I didn't know what they were talking about, but I thought it sounded great. Since then, I have been researching this intriguing topic of wireless internet services and how they work. Many of the computer stores weren't sure how it worked either. This is when they directed me to the cell phone company. I signed up for the plan. For those of you that like to stay connected this might be the way to go.