

Computer Solutions

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Connecting to the Internet with a mobile phone

There are two principal ways in which a computer may be connected to the Internet other than by a land line.

Wi-Fi (Wireless technology)

You will need a mobile phone model that is 'modem enabled' (supports data transfer). You may connect phones either by a USB cable, infra-red or by wi-fi (wireless technology) such as Bluetooth. The maximum speed will be 56Kbps (slow).

You may be able to connect at wi-fi hotspots. I would suggest you contact British Waterways for further information.

General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)

You will need a mobile phone or terminal that supports GPRS (existing GSM phones do NOT support GPRS).

The notional speed is 171.2 kilobits per second (Kbps)

See www.gsmworld.com/technology/gprs/intro.shtml#1 for more information.

Other considerations

You will need to consider the cost implications. There is a general perception that most people will be connecting by broadband web sites and files for downloading are being written accordingly.

You may also need to consider the security implications of personal and sensitive information being committed to transmission by radio which enables anyone with suitable equipment to capture such information and also to manipulate files on your computer.

If you want to use your computer / mobile phone on a boat on inland waterways I would suggest you contact British Waterways and the Inland Waterways Association who may be able to offer advice based on user experience.

If you have any further queries on this subject please contact me.

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Helping to make computers efficient and effective