

**P**lusNet is one of the cheapest providers around. You can get a broadband connection for as little as £18.99 a month if you're prepared to do without peer-to-peer file sharing and binary newsgroups.

If you'd prefer no restrictions, it's still only £21.99 a month, or £24.99 if you'd like hardware and activation thrown in for free. There are even more options – the Homemaker package gives you a 20:1 contention ratio for just £29.99, and there's a 1Mbps service from as little as £32.99, or 2Mbps for a not-so-cheap £65.99.

These ADSL packages get a resounding thumbs-up from visitors to ADSLguide, and PlusNet always appears well up the list of speediest providers. Surprisingly, we heard from few PlusNet users in our own survey, but most of those that did respond were very happy with their ISP.

There are a wide variety of dial-up packages too. The Connect accounts give you a certain number of guaranteed hours at a particular contention ratio, with a fair usage limit on top. In addition, you can use the service as much as you like between 1am and 7am. For example, the Standard account offers 20 'guaranteed' hours a week at a ratio of 10:1, and up to 40 hours 'fair usage' for £14.99. It might sound complicated, but you should be able to find a package that fits your needs.

PlusNet offers limited content, but there's an impressive array of tools and extra services available. Most accounts get 250MB of Web space with support for FrontPage extensions, CGI scripts and PHP, and a co.uk domain name is often included too. You also get Web-based mail, an online diary, a 'fax2email' service, and dedicated gaming servers.

It's an impressive all-round package, and we hear that customer service is pretty good too. Our only concern is whether PlusNet can maintain such good services at such low margins.

> **LOWDOWN**

**PRODUCTS**

**BROADBAND**

512Kbps – £18.99 a month with restrictions

£21.99 a month or £24.99 with hardware/activation

£29.99 a month for low contention service

1Mbps – £32.99 a month, £44.99 with hardware / activation

2Mbps – £65.99 a month

**DIAL-UP**

From £4.99 to £96.99 a month

**FEATURES**

- 250MB Web space
- FrontPage, CGI and PHP support
- Free co.uk domains
- Gaming servers
- 24 hour, local rate support

