UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Academic Services

Information & Computing Services Division

Desktop Support

Overview of supported mobile broadband technologies

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1 TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 DOCUMENT HISTORY

2.1 DOCUMENT LOCATION

This document can be accessed from the following location:

http://www.its.ex.ac.uk/secure/ds-intranet/documents/DS010-SupportedMobileBroadband-v1.1.pdf

2.2 REVISION HISTORY

The latest revision can be found at the top of the list:

Revision Date	Author	Version	Summary of Changes
6-Apr-2009	Robert Gerzsany	1.1	Vodafone Expresscard removed
8-May-2008	James Jones	1.0	First Live Version

2.3 APPROVALS

This document requires the following approvals:

Name	Title	Version	Date of approval
Paul Grogan	Desktop Support Team Leader	1.1	9-Apr-2009
Paul Grogan	Desktop Support Team Leader	1.0	20-Jun-2008

3   BENEFITS OF MOBILE BROADBAND

Mobile broadband supports all online services such as webmail, VPN and standard web browsing wirelessly from almost any location.

All hardware/software/tariffs included in this document are supported by the University's IT department.

4   LIMITATIONS

4.1   TARIFFS

All the supported products listed must use a Vodafone SIM card and contract for them to remain supported.

There are various contracts available; typically we suggest the Vodafone Data 30 and Data 250 tariffs. This gives the users 30MB per month and 250MB per month respectively.

A Mobile Broadband tariff which includes 5GB per month is now available from Vodafone which is likely to be the better choice now for heavy users.

Users working abroad regularly should be aware that mobile broadband is not always the cheapest option. The table below gives an overview of the additional charges for using the service abroad (information correct as of 05/08)

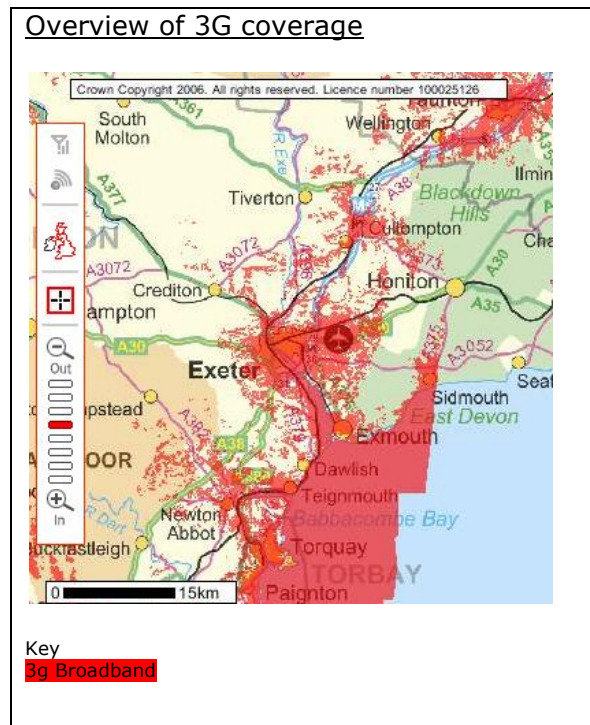|	Data 10	Data 30	Mobile Broadband 24	Mobile Broadband	Mobile Broadband Travel
Monthly Charge	£6.75	£13.50	None	£25	£86
UK Usage Charge	10MB Included then £1 per MB	30MB included then £1 per MB	£8.50 per 24h 50MB included	None 5GB included	None 5GB included
Roaming Usage Charge	Up to £8.75 per MB	Up to £8.75 per MB	£4.25 per MB	£8.50 per 24h period 50MB included	200MB included, then £4.25 / MB

SMS will be charged at 3.5p per message

For up to date information and on tariffs including costs visit www.vodafonebusinessshop.co.uk or speak to your IT liaison representative.

4.2 COVERAGE

Below are print outs of the Vodafone coverage according to the Vodafone website (correct as of April 2008).

The areas designated as 3G on the map below should get speeds of up to 7.2mbps.

Overview of 3G coverage

More importantly in areas not covered by 3G above Vodafone do have some form of coverage in most places (99.8% of the population according to the website) which means that users should be able to work wherever they need to.

5 SUPPORTED PRODUCTS

Of the three options listed below the first two are add-on products that can enable existing laptops to be upgraded to use Vodafone broadband. The final example listed is for users looking at replacing a laptop and provides an all-in-one solution.

Further information is provided below.

5.1 VODAFONE MOBILE BROADBAND – USB STICK

The Vodafone broadband USB stick is the most flexible broadband solution covered in this document.

Because the device is USB it will work in any modern desktop or laptop so is very versatile. It is totally portable and can be plugged straight into a Windows XP machine with USB and will work without the need for any additional installation media.

The device also works with Mac OS X however it needs a CD installation to be run beforehand as it cannot install directly from the USB stick.

Pros

- Simple installation
- Works with both laptops and desktops
- Easy to install/uninstall so can be shared/pooled amongst users
- Hardware is cheap/free depending on tariff

Cons

- Extra hardware to carry
- Easily lost/damaged

More information on the Vodafone mobile broadband USB stick is available here:

http://online.vodafone.co.uk/dispatch/Portal/appmanager/vodafone/wrp?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=template08&pageID=BS_0201

5.2 BUILT-IN BROADBAND – DELL LATITUDE D SERIES

In-built broadband offers the ultimate in mobile connectivity. With everything built in to the laptop there are no aerials or cables to get snagged or broken whilst moving around.

Once the laptop is purchased an appropriate data tariff needs to be ordered from Vodafone and the sim card inserted into the laptop.

Pros

- Simple all in one solution for user
- Works out of the box
- No extra hardware to lose/break

Cons

- High purchase cost

More information on the Dell Latitude D630 is available here:

http://www1.euro.dell.com/content/products/productdetails.aspx/latit_d630?c=uk&cs=ukbsdt1&l=uk&s=bsd

5.3 INTERNAL MOBILE BROADBAND FOR DELL LATITUDE E SERIES

In-built broadband offers the ultimate in mobile connectivity. With everything built in to the laptop there are no aerials or cables to get snagged or broken whilst moving around.

The 'Mobile Broadband UK Internal Dell Wireless 5530 Card 3G/HSDPA product is shipped with a Vodafone SIM by Dell, either as a part or built into a laptop. Once the device is set up an appropriate data tariff needs to be ordered from Vodafone.

It is recommended to order the laptop with this device built in from the Dell website rather than to purchase as a separate item later on.

Pros

- Simple all in one solution for user
- No fiddling with the driver for the user
- No extra hardware to lose/break or stick out
- Available for all supported Dell E series laptops such as E6500, E6400, E4300 and E4200
- Stronger signal than datacard/USB
- GPS based location data

Cons

- Higher on-off purchase cost
- Using the device in a different laptop is not a viable option
- Laptop needs to be taken apart in order to install if bought separate

More information on the mini card: http://search.dell.co.uk/1/4/broadband-uk-internal