



Internet access

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We're so connected in this digital age that we take Internet access for granted when we're in our homes. We can even get connected in airports or Starbucks. If connectivity is so easy in so many places, why hasn't someone yet invented a pay-as-you-go USB Internet connection that doesn't require a two-year contract with a major cellular carrier and actually works in rural areas?

I recently made a trip to north-central Arkansas in the heart of the Ozark Mountains. Before the trip, I researched my Internet options and they were not good. The problem was that I was staying in my mother's vacant house with no broadband and a weak cellular signal. I signed up for Blackberry Internet so I could use my phone as a modem for my laptop while I was in the house with no service. T-Mobile warned me that I'd be roaming in that neighborhood and that AT&T might not allow data access. Well, T-Mobile was right. My Blackberry was just a regular old phone in them thar hills.

And now for the rest of the story... I was able to keep working on DG during my stay because, thankfully, there was a wireless network in that rural neighborhood that I was able to hook up to (intermittently). I don't know why and I'm not looking for that answer. But it begs the question, why can't someone invent instant Internet for those of us who travel occasionally? I don't want to change my cellular provider to one that offers a two-year service for \$70 a month. I want to pay \$20 or so for a week of unlimited Internet access, using a rechargeable USB modem the size of a flash drive. Why is that so unreasonable?

For those inventors out there, consider this a request for my holiday wish list.

Time-turner found

In the last issue of DG, I was lamenting my time problems and wishing for another invention... a time-turner, such as the one used in one of the Harry Potter books. While I have not yet found that "thing," I have found a person to help my never-ending lack of time, and it is none other than one of my columnists and proofreaders—Sue Zacharias. Beginning with this issue, Sue is now the layout manager for *Digital Genealogist*. Sue and I have been working together as an editorial team for more than a year on the *NGS Magazine*—the quarterly magazine of the National Genealogical Society—so she was a natural choice. Sue is very creative; just take a look at the updated and refreshed logo for the magazine that reflects the fact that DG is a tell-it-like-it-is and ecology-minded magazine.

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