

Tellabs - Inspire the New Life



Another Side of Broadband Access

By Henry Razor, Tellabs Product Training Services Manager – August 11, 2009 / 5:52 PM

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Broadband access is about quality of life. It shapes how we do business, learn new things and find entertainment. But there are neighborhoods where broadband is absent. People can't afford it – and they miss opportunities.

Take John*, for example. I first met John a couple of years ago. A capable young man who lives in Chicago's economically challenged Auburn Gresham neighborhood. He wanted to work. But a job search is tough, when you don't have broadband access. John spent many afternoons waiting at the library to complete applications that were only available online.

John and I met through [Charity in the Community](#) (CITC), a nonprofit my wife and I started in 2002. We saw a need for real-world, IT training. Not just basic computer skills. We're talking about broadband access, data networking and other computer applications – subjects that prepare students for real jobs.

Each student invests about 130 hours with CITC to learn IT and job search skills. Our classrooms have computers, wireless devices, routers and switches so students can create a real network. They practice by assembling and dismantling the network many, many times. We also try and open the center on nights and weekends so students have access to the Internet and can apply for jobs.



John worked hard and came to understand the career opportunities in broadband access. Now, he has a job offer from a major broadband service provider.

In fact, 70% of CITC students find jobs when they finish courses. Many of them help network small businesses and churches in the area, spreading broadband access further into the community.

At CITC, we're learning right alongside our students. We hope to keep improving and reach a little further each year. Broadband will continue to shape how we live and work. [Stimulus funding](#) will spread broadband even further. The more students and neighborhoods we bring online, the better.

** Name changed to protect student's privacy*

Summary of reasons dial-up and non-internet users cite for not having broadband at home

	% of dial-up + non-online users	% of all adults
Relevance (not interested in getting online + nothing could get me to switch + too busy + other unspecified reasons)	50%	13%
Price (price must fall + too expensive + no computer)	19%	5%
Availability	17%	4%
Usability (difficult + waste of time + too old + physically unable)	13%	3%

Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project April 2009 Surveys. Number of cases for dial-up and non-internet users = 643.

