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By Steven Hill When you search for an ISP, you'll find services offered by AT&T and Comcast. Both of these companies offer high-speed fiber optic Internet service. AT&T has U-verse and Comcast has XFINITY. One comparison you can make between the two services is connection speed. Comcast's fastest available Internet connections come from their XFINITY platform. From the time of publication, Comcast offers many levels of connection speed, depending on your desires. These include relatively low speeds, such as the Economy connection package offering 1.5 Mbps in speed for \$41.95 per month, the Comcast's highest performance package for users who require the most from their connection. This package, called Extreme 105, offers users 105 Mbps in download speeds and 10 Mbps in upload speeds of \$199.95 per month. AT&T provides subscribers with its fastest available Internet connections through its U-verse platform. At the time of publication, AT&T offers five connection speed levels through U-verse. The slowest available speed comes from the Pro package, which offers 3 Mbps and starts at \$38 per month in price. Users who want to make the most of their AT&T connection should go with AT&T's fastest available U-verse offering, called Max Turbo. Max Turbo offers users download speeds of 24 Mbps starting at \$63 per month. In terms of total available speed, AT&T's U-verse Internet service is not as fast as Comcast's XFINITY Internet service. AT&T's best speed-based offering, its Max Turbo package at 24 Mbps, comes a long way from Comcast's top offering, the Extreme 105 at 105 Mbps. Mathematically, Comcast's fastest service is 4,375 times faster than AT&T's fastest service. However, relative to the service price, AT&T charges less for its speed. For example, Max Turbo, with its speed and price, beats Comcast's Performance tier of 12 Mbps for \$59.95. In the broadest sense, AT&T can't beat Comcast in terms of sheer speed. If costs are considered speed, AT&T's offer beat Comcast's to several levels. However, you may consider other considerations. For example, as the time of publication, Comcast offers multiple promotions to get its services at a discount, while AT&T does not. Your application preferences can also come into play, as Comcast bases its security package on Norton software, while AT&T bases its security package on McAfee. Comcast services provide cable TV, Internet and telephone service to customers. Whether the customer chooses to have only one service or a combination of services, the price and options vary. Customers who use both a cable service and a telephone service through Comcast can view incoming calls on the TV through the Comcast Universal Caller ID. Call local Comcast provider number to determine if the service is available in your local area. While Comcast provides a Caller ID to customers without further charge, some sites do not have the service available. Call 800-Comcast to ask for information about the location. Install Comcast phone, Internet and TV services. Only customers who have all three services can use Universal Caller ID because mixed services will not provide the information. Make sure that the box specified for cable service is compatible with the caller ID service. Turn on the TV. The service works automatically when the TV is on and a call comes through. The exact location where the number is displayed varies depending on whether the show is regular programming or an On Demand show. By Joe Fletcher Maintenance separate remote controls for each of your individual electronics components can be quite a hassle. It's easy to streamline your entertainment system by controlling multiple devices with your Comcast remote. The first obvious step is to sync the remote control with your TV. Although this will require the right code (or for a while), it is a fairly simple procedure. On the remote control, press the TV key once. This key must be on top of the remote control. Hold down the Setup button (also at the top) until the TV mode button flashes twice. Find the code for your TV. If you have no idea, follow the link in Resources to see a list of Comcast's code lists. Enter in the first four-digit code specified for your brand. If correct, the TV button flashes twice. If you enter the wrong code, it will be a long blink and the remote will finish setup mode. You will need to start from step 2 and try the next code. Unfortunately, codes are listed by brand and not specific model, so it may take several attempts to get it right. Press the Power button on the remote control and the TV must turn off. If not, repeat the process and try a new code. Search for your TV code. If you can't make any specified codes work, you can search for the code by the steps above (repeat steps 1 through 3 from the last paragraph). Enter 9 9 1. The TV button flashes twice. Point the remote at the TV and switch very slowly between pressing TV and Power. This process prompts the remote control to send pre-programmed codes to the TV. Finally, the TV should turn off when the correct code is found. Press the Setup button to have the code locked in. The TV button flashes twice. Try turning on the TV to make sure the remote control is now working with it. While section 2 configure your remote control, you probably want to know what the code is if you need it again in the future, especially if it took a long time to search. The first time steps 1 through 3 of paragraph 1 are repeated. Enter in 9 9 0 and the TV button should flash twice. Press 1 and the TV button after three seconds. Be aware of the number of times it flashes and record the number - this is the first digit of the if it does not blink, the digit must be 0. Enter in 2 and wait for the TV button to flash, then 3 and 4 one by one to get the rest of the four-digit code. Record this and keep it in a safe place. You can find Comcast listings Comcast.com or on LocateTV.com. To see Comcast TV listings, Comcast.com and click the Check TV listings link. To LocateTV.com, select the TV Guide drop-down menu on the website, select TV listings, click Set TV Provider, enter the correct location, and select Comcast. As of 2015, current Comcast customers also have the option to log into their accounts to show the most accurate programming lineup for their subscribed channels. Customers can further narrow listings by preferred channels, subject, and time. LocateTV offers additional features to registered users, including the ability to designate favorite TV shows, actors and movies and to be notified when they will be on TV. We still don't know what Apple's long-rumored, near-mythical TV effort will look like, or exactly how it will work, or what it will cost, or whether it will be a big enough improvement over today's status quo to really change the game. But on Sunday, The Wall Street Journal's anonymous sources gave us a glimpse of the deals being struck, claiming that Apple is working with Comcast on this TV in the future. Comcast customers everywhere probably moaned at this news and crossed Apple's not-yet-a-product from their imaginary Christmas lists. But Apple partnered with an unpopular communications behemoth before (remember AT&T's nearly four-year exclusive lock on a small item called the iPhone?), so it's possible that a Comcast-Apple partnership could work out. Or maybe not. What happens Since Comcast is the nation's largest INTERNET service provider, it's a no-brainer for Apple to want to lock down the preferred status of this network. According to the Journal's report, this device will likely be an Apple-branded set-top box that replaces your cable box and gets priority processing on Comcast's network. Apple had reportedly been working with Time Warner Cable, which is now swallowed by Comcast, if the \$45 billion proposed merger goes through. So it makes sense for Apple to continue those talks with Comcast because partnering with a cable company could get Apple managed service status. Part of the last mile of the Internet pipeline from the cable Internet service providers to your house is reserved for the cable company's own managed services, including cable TV, video on demand, and VoIP. The rest of the tube is for the public internet, and with streaming video becoming more and more popular, the public bandwidth is becoming more and more crowded. After an appeals court struck down the FCC's net neutrality rules in January, Internet providers like Comcast are legally able to prioritize some content over others. Netflix had to cut a one with Comcast in February to improve the streaming experience over the public tube for Comcast's customers, although that didn't stop Netflix CEO Reed Hastings from complaining about it after the fact, in a call to strengthen net neutrality rules. (The FCC has gone back to the drawing board to write new rules.) So Apple is wise to want to bypass that whole kerfuffle and secure managed service status with Comcast, the nation's largest Internet service provider. Why we're skeptical The details of such an Apple-Comcast deal are still up in the air: Content rights and customer data were both cited by the WSJ article as sticking points. Apple wants to control the entire service, meaning users would sign in with Apple IDs and Apple would own all customer data. But Comcast wants to keep a tight handle on customer service and user data too. Apple has experience with content providers, according to apps such as HBO Go and MLB on the current Apple TV. Plus, Comcast leaves it to Apple to secure content rights, and it could be even tougher, especially since, according to the WSJ, Comcast wants to ensure that the price Apple must pay to acquire rights would not cause the service to be priced higher than traditional pay-TV service. Ryan Lawler at TechCrunch points out that many tech companies have tried and failed to roll out over-the-top TV services because they couldn't get enough content rights. Sony struck a tentative deal with Viacom for an online pay-TV service last August, but we still haven't seen this service appear yet. Why it could work anyway Let's say for the sake of argument Apple can overcome these obstacles and get its set-top box and service to market. Will partnering with Comcast, which has notoriously terrible customer service, shoot it in the foot? Anecdotally, my own hatred of Comcast was a big factor in my decision to cancel cable TV last summer, and I've never looked back. I'm really not eager to subscribe to another Comcast service, but Apple products have a long track record of sucking me in. The iPhone's nearly four-year exclusivity at AT&T kept me from switching to Verizon, for example. Comcast already has the X1 DVR, which combines cable service, on-demand, and OTT, as well as the rumored Apple box. And guess what - AT&T didn't mess up, from dragging its feet on tethering, eventually abandoning unlimited data plans. But my iPhone never had an AT&T logo on it, or AT&T bloatware clogging on the home screen - Apple even got to rejudge the voicemail system. It an Apple product that happened to be running on AT&T's network, and it was to keep me renewing my AT&T contracts and paying my AT&T bills. If Comcast lets Apple handle anything but the network, the new Apple TV service could be great. But Comcast has invested plenty in its own next-gen TV delivery systems, including its X1 DVR, which combines live and recorded programming with OTT services and apps. As Janko Roettgers at Gigaom points out, Comcast is notoriously competitive-negative-it won't allow its own customers to watch HBO Go at a Roku box, for example, preferring to direct them through the company's Xfinity apps and products instead. So it's possible Apple needs Comcast's priority network traffic more than Comcast needs Apple to whip up a next-gen set-top box. Note: When you buy something after clicking on links in our articles, we can earn a small commission. Read our affiliate link policy for more details. Details.

