

AT & T EDGE INFO.

I had the meeting with Jim Leonard, AT&T sales, and he informed me that AT&T expects to have their EDGE system approved by the last week of June. New customers will then be brought on line with this service starting the last week of June or first week of July. According to him the delay of their system was caused by CHSB and their refusal to allow them to have a direct connect to their system. AT&T is now in the final process of connecting their new hardware/server with Verizon. This means that when we send a request into CHSB, we will have to go through Verizon's connection into the system. AT&T's connection to Verizon should be completed in a couple weeks and then they will be using one or two agencies for testing purposes. Once the testing is completed they will be certified and will then begin to bring departments on line. First come first serve.

AT&T will be providing free modems to those agencies that sign up for their services. The agency will be allowed to pick the type of modem that they wish to use. AT&T will not require agencies to be locked into any service agreement in order to get the modems. (You will not have to sign on for 2 yrs just to get the modems. If you want to sign on with them and then leave 6 months later, thats fine)Currently SIERRA WIRELESS makes an EDGE certified modem called the mp775 which is a cruiser trunk mount modem. (This is about a \$1,000 modem) Air cards for laptops will also be provided if requested. If you do not like SIERRA products I have been told that there are other companies that make EDGE modems. ENFORA, AIRLINK, BLUETREE

I expressed my concerns about AT&T coverage in this area and I also inquired about the current availability of EDGE in the Boston area. I was informed that basically EDGE is an "optimized" version of GPRS. This GPRS system is the current technology/system being used at all AT&T cell sites. Its also the same technology used on all current Cingular cell sites. This will translate into a wide coverage zone once the two companies finalize their merger. (According to Leonard, if you are using AT&T cells at this time they also utilize Cingular but they are not allowed to advertise this)

AT&T will not guarantee any connection speed but they claim that they consistently operate in the 90 – 120 K range.

An interesting find was the fact that there currently are no EDGE capable PDA's. According to Leonard, Panasonic and other companies are currently working on this. Any handheld will still be connected to AT&T using GPRS.

The EDGE system will run 8 channels and will be set up the follow way. 1 control channel, 2 voice only channels, 3 voice priority channels and 2 data only channels. The voice priority channels will transfer data when not being used for voice transmissions. AT&T will also be able to provide middleware software which will allow for session persistency. Currently there is no public safety priority built into their system or anyone elses.

AT&T will offer the unlimited plan for \$49.99/month per unit ----- a 20k pooled option for \$38.24/month per unit. They have other plans and I have attached another document which explains some of the other options. These figures are based on the state contract. However, those of you from large departments will be able to work out better rate plans, outside the controls of the state contract. The more units the better the price.

This may require that you sign on for a period of time in order to obtain these better prices.

On 5/4/04 I did a ride along with Leonard to check the cell coverage for Danvers. The coverage appears to be better than the Verizon coverage. Leonard was using a handheld Blackberry while checking the signal coverage. This unit uses a GPRS connection. I asked if I should expect any change in signal coverage between GPRS and EDGE and I received the following explanation. " Because the Edge is essentially an optimized GPRS system there should be no difference in coverage. The only real difference between these two systems is speed. If you have a good AT&T signal on a GPRS device it will be the same on an EDGE device." Leonard also stated that the signal strength on a handheld is about 15 less than what a laptop will get. (I was told by an independent computer tech to expect about 10 less, so this is accurate info) For those of you interested in taking a ride along to check for coverage he will take as long as you like. Tell him you want to do an extensive check and he will allot the time.

I asked about the availability of EDGE aircards. Leonard later confirmed that EDGE aircards will be made available to him to lend out on the week of 5/10. He will have a card for the Northshore, Southshore, etc... You will not be allowed to connect to CHSB but you will be able to check the signal coverage on your laptops.

The AT&T system UTMS which will offer broadband connection speeds will not be available until at least sometime in 2007 or 2008.

I have attached another document from AT&T which provides additional info.

I hope this helps out.

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