

Abdigani Jama" wrote:
 Somalia Internet development Overview

In Somalia there are about 11 operators, from small to medium, they Operate in the rural and towns. Almost all the companies owned by Somali business community, however, there are small percentage owned by foreign companies.

Currently most of operators are using satellite systems (Either with DAMA = Demand Assigned Multi Access, or foreign carrier as hub) to route between their own nodes as well as to nodes of competing companies. The country has gone through in a very prolonged civil war that lasted over 10 years. There is no PSTN available.

The Internet technology is very new in Somalia. The first Internet access in Somalia has become into reality Feb. 2000. It started in the North east of Somalia and expanded throughout Somalia very quickly. We are currently using 128Kbits/s and we are projecting to increase the capacity soon as the demand for access expanding the plan is to increase to 256Kbites/s or 512Kbites/s depend the demand.

Let me give you Internet brief evolution in Somalia for the first seven Months of 2000

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	July	Aug.
Number of unlimited	198	236	255	262	270	274	275
Number of 5 Hrs limit	55	62	68	77	82	86	86
Number of 10 Hrs Limit	<u>98</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>151</u>
TOTAL	351	404	451	474	491	504	512

Internet Traffic

Total connection duration in Minutes

Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	July	Aug.
874'763	688'540	955'778	960'314	933'201	958'465	978'901

Total Number connected

Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	July	Aug.
63'103	47'987	590'124	63'290	660'321	662'650	660'090

The above survey has been conducted on last November, However, today the Estimated users and subscribers are higher than the above chart Indicating.

Academic	14%
Commercial	39%
NGO	19%
Government	11%
Int'l Org.	13%
Others	04%
Total	100%

Total numbers of ISPs are 6.

The market in Somalia is unique, because there is no strong national Government that regulates the market. However, what we have is Somalia Telecom Associations in which regulates but no reinforcement. Its self regulated. There are three Telecom companies who are jointly providing in Mogadishu the capital. Its called Somali Internet. STA is a body that represents for all Telecommunication companies in Somalia, it has been found with UNDP and ITU to represent the country until strong national Government comes into existence.

Somalia market is the most liberalized in Arab states it is open, the companies could compete the services and get together if there is any dispute and solve themselves. However, there is no cohesive Telecom policy available in Somalia.

With regard of implementing universal access, Somalia is advancing in providing public access points such Telecentrs, cyber coffee, etc. The issue of IP has not being given any thought yet we are trying to study the subject well before implementing. Today Internet is available most of the country and increasing.

Thank you for your kind cooperation's, should you have further Questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Abdigani Jama, Secretary General
Somali Telecom Associations