

# 1A--TETHERING & HOTSPOTS-- BILLING PERSPECTIVE

by Francis Chao

fchao2@yahoo.com



pcbug

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SOCIETY



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# SUMMARY

Tethering and mobile hotspotting a cell phone to provide Internet access to other cell phones, computers, or tablets is one of the most expensive ways for you to connect to the Internet with some cryptic terminology that you need to know about.

# KEY TAKE-AWAY INFORMATION

- For cellular operators "unlimited data" usually does not mean "unlimited" for tethering or hotspotting
- Most cell phone services have a "cap" for tethering or hotspotting
- For some cell phone "plans", after the "cap" for tethering or hotspotting, you get a massive "throttling" or "slowdown" (for the rest of the "billing month) to make tethering or hotspotting unusable, especially for Zoom Workplace<sup>4</sup>

# KEY TAKE-AWAY INFORMATION

(continued)

- If you try to do mobile tethering or mobile hotspotting from a cell phone where the cell phone provider does not allow such activity or even where the cell phone provider does not mention such activity in their consumer disclosures, they may shut off your cell phone account and you might have to phone or visit the provider's stores to get the account reactivated. 5

# "VERIZON" AND RESELLERS

- For Verizon plans, after you reach your mobile hotspot data limit during a billing month, they do not allow any "overage" charges so you are stuck with the "throttling" or "slowdowned" download and upload speeds until a new billing month starts

# "VERIZON" AND RESELLERS

(continued)

- For most cell phone providers, the term "unlimited" actually means "unlimited when using an app inside your cell phone".

The "data cap" for mobile tethering or mobile hotspotting is then stated and the "data cap" for mobile tethering or mobile hotspotting is then stated separately:

Browser tabs: (9,547 unread) - fchao2@ X Data Selector Perks X Settings X Settings X + v - □ X

Address bar: <https://www.verizon.com/digital/nsa/secure/ui/cpc/#/dataselectorperks> 90% ☆

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# "VERIZON" AND RESELLERS (continued)

- For most cell phone providers, the term "unlimited" actually means "unlimited when using an app inside your cell phone".  
The "data cap" for mobile tethering or mobile hotspotting is then stated separately:

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Ultimate Phone Upgrade



60 GB premium mobile hotspot  
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Our reliable, fastest 5G, up to 10x faster than 4G LTE. No matter how much you use.



5G Ultra Wideband



30 GB premium mobile hotspot data<sup>1</sup>



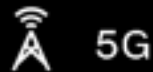
Save up to 50% off data plans for Watch, Tablet & more

# "VERIZON" AND RESELLERS (continued)

- For this lowest priced plan, no mobile tethering and no mobile hotspotting is allowed but they do not disclose it clearly:

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5G



Home Internet as low as \$40/  
mo, service availability varies

[Review details](#)

# "VERIZON" AND RESELLERS (continued)

- "Visible" is a reseller for "Verizon" cellular service:
- [https://www.visible.com/plans?CMP=MarketingTactic-KNC\\_Site-GAW\\_Funnel-AC\\_AudienceType-PSP\\_Audience-BRO\\_Tactic-PMA\\_Initiative-BAU\\_VideoType-NV&gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwmrqzBhAoEiwAXVpgonIS1A9HrY76gKe1f0sDIOrDe7MkukbzO9ZzOYrVHkxMDmCvjVvvshoC92QQAvD\\_BwE&gclid=c=aw.ds](https://www.visible.com/plans?CMP=MarketingTactic-KNC_Site-GAW_Funnel-AC_AudienceType-PSP_Audience-BRO_Tactic-PMA_Initiative-BAU_VideoType-NV&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwmrqzBhAoEiwAXVpgonIS1A9HrY76gKe1f0sDIOrDe7MkukbzO9ZzOYrVHkxMDmCvjVvvshoC92QQAvD_BwE&gclid=c=aw.ds)

<sup>2</sup>Your smartphone becomes a WiFi connection for devices like tablets, laptops, and more. Visible+ includes mobile hotspot with unlimited data at speeds up to 10Mbps, Visible includes mobile hotspot with unlimited data at speeds up to 5Mbps. Video streams in SD. While more than 1 device may be connected to your Hotspot at one time, a single connected device will experience optimal speeds. Performance will be reduced if multiple devices access data through the Hotspot simultaneously. Actual data speed, availability and coverage will vary based on device capabilities, usage, your location and network availability.

# "VERIZON" AND RESELLERS

(continued)

- <sup>2</sup>Your smartphone becomes a WiFi connection for devices like tablets, laptops, and more.

**"Visible+**" includes mobile hotspot with unlimited data at speeds up to 10Mbps,

**"Visible"** includes mobile hotspot with unlimited data at speeds up to 5Mbps.



# "AT&T" AND RESELLERS

- <https://www.highspeedinternet.com/resources/att-hotspots-data-plans>:
- **The best cellular plan for your phone's hotspot: AT&T Unlimited Premium® PL costs \$85.99 for one line, and comes with totally unlimited cellular data and 50GB of high-speed hotspot data. This robust plan makes it a lot easier and more cost-effective to use your phone's hotspot on a regular basis in lieu of investing in a pricier hotspot device.**

# "T-MOBILE" AND RESELLERS

- "T-Mobile" and resellers link "Mint Mobile" have a wide varying range of data caps for mobile hotspotting and mobile tethering. However, when you hit a data cap, you can pay an "overage" charge for getting more unthrottled and not-slowed-down mobile hotspotting and mobile tethering.

# "T-MOBILE" AND RESELLERS

(continue)

- Only T-Mobile and their MVNO resellers (MVNO=Mobile Network Operator) have overage charges for when you reach a data limit or a mobile tethering/mobile hotspot limit. The other cell phone providers and their MVNO resellers throttle down these speeds for the rest of the billing month when you reach your limit.

# "T-MOBILE" AND RESELLERS

(continue)

- Only T-Mobile and their MVNO resellers (MVNO=Mobile Network Operator) have symmetrical download and upload speeds.
- The other cell phone providers and their MVNO resellers have massively slower upload speeds relative to their download speeds and in most states (unlike California) are not required to disclose their upload speeds.<sup>20</sup>

# "T-MOBILE" AND RESELLERS

- <https://www.t-mobile.com/commerce/plan-details>