

## November 1, 2024 - StarLink Residential Internet Service local Experience

Over this past decade, I have fought to maintain full 24/7/365 connection between the actual Marrowstone Wireless infrastructure equipment located on both Marrowstone and Whidbey Islands and my monitoring/management location in Port Hadlock.

During this whole time I have depended on my cable service connection here in Hadlock that costs about \$150/month for less bandwidth than we deliver to most of our clients on Marrowstone at \$55/month. This cable service is subject to power outages, fiber breaks and network issues. I need a better way!

So, for the past month I have been testing Elon Musk's StarLink here in Hadlock at a cost of \$120/month. I find bandwidth will vary from over 200mbps download and 20mbps upload to a low of 20mbps download and 0.5mbps upload. Plus it is subject to short term dropouts frequently that affect all Internet services except streaming even during high bandwidth. The good thing about Starlink for me is it is there when cable is not. So, my need for a mostly reliable management connection during storms is met! But, how to deal with the Starlink dropouts and low bandwidth times during normal good weather times? I am testing a custom setup right now where I use both the StarLink bandwidth source and the cable service source in a quick response source failover system to "fill in the StarLink holes." It is working!!! Next, I will install a CenturyLink DSL service at about \$70/month to replace the costly cable service which will be used to fill in those StarLink holes for less money. BTW: The DSL is about 30mbps download and 1.5mbps upload at that price. The screen shot in this page shows a couple of flatline dropouts on Starlink and the cable service kicking in to fill in automatically. When StarLink comes back the system flips back.

Peace, David

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