Bandwidth Boom: Measuring U.S. Communications Capacity from 2000 to 2008

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- The average American's personal communications power grew almost 100-fold over the last eight years.
- Contrary to dismal assertions of a digital Dark Age, the first generations of real broadband enabled a new boom in digital applications that spread widely to consumers in the home and on the go.
- Moore's law, combined with smarter regulatory policies and big infrastructure investments, yielded dramatic gains in consumer bandwidth and the diversity of communications channels.
- Mobile phone and wireless bandwidth grew fastest, leaping 500-fold.

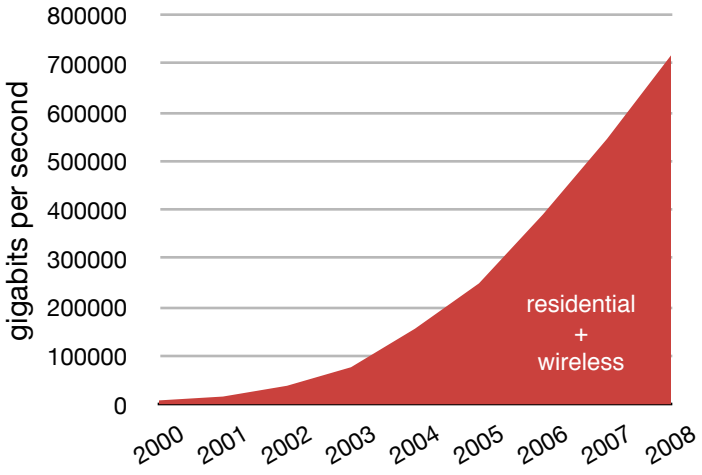
Over the eight-year period from 2000 to 2008:

- Total residential bandwidth grew 54x.
- Total wireless bandwidth grew 542x.
- Total consumer bandwidth grew 91x.
- Residential bandwidth per capita grew 50x.
- Wireless bandwidth per capita grew 499x.
- Total consumer bandwidth per capita grew 84x, for a compound annual growth rate of 74%.
- Nominal U.S. info-tech investment totaled some $3.5 trillion.

Looking forward:

- New applications like real-time interactive video and a projected 66-fold explosion in mobile data by 2013 will require continued large investments in broadband networks and related communications infrastructure.
- Pro-investment policies are needed to (1) deliver more bandwidth to ever more consumers and to enlarge geographic coverage areas; (2) drive new innovations in crucial sectors like education and health care; and (3) accommodate rapid data traffic growth with ever-greater real-time latency and quality-of-service requirements. EE

Total U.S. Consumer Bandwidth



U.S. Consumer Bandwidth Per Capita