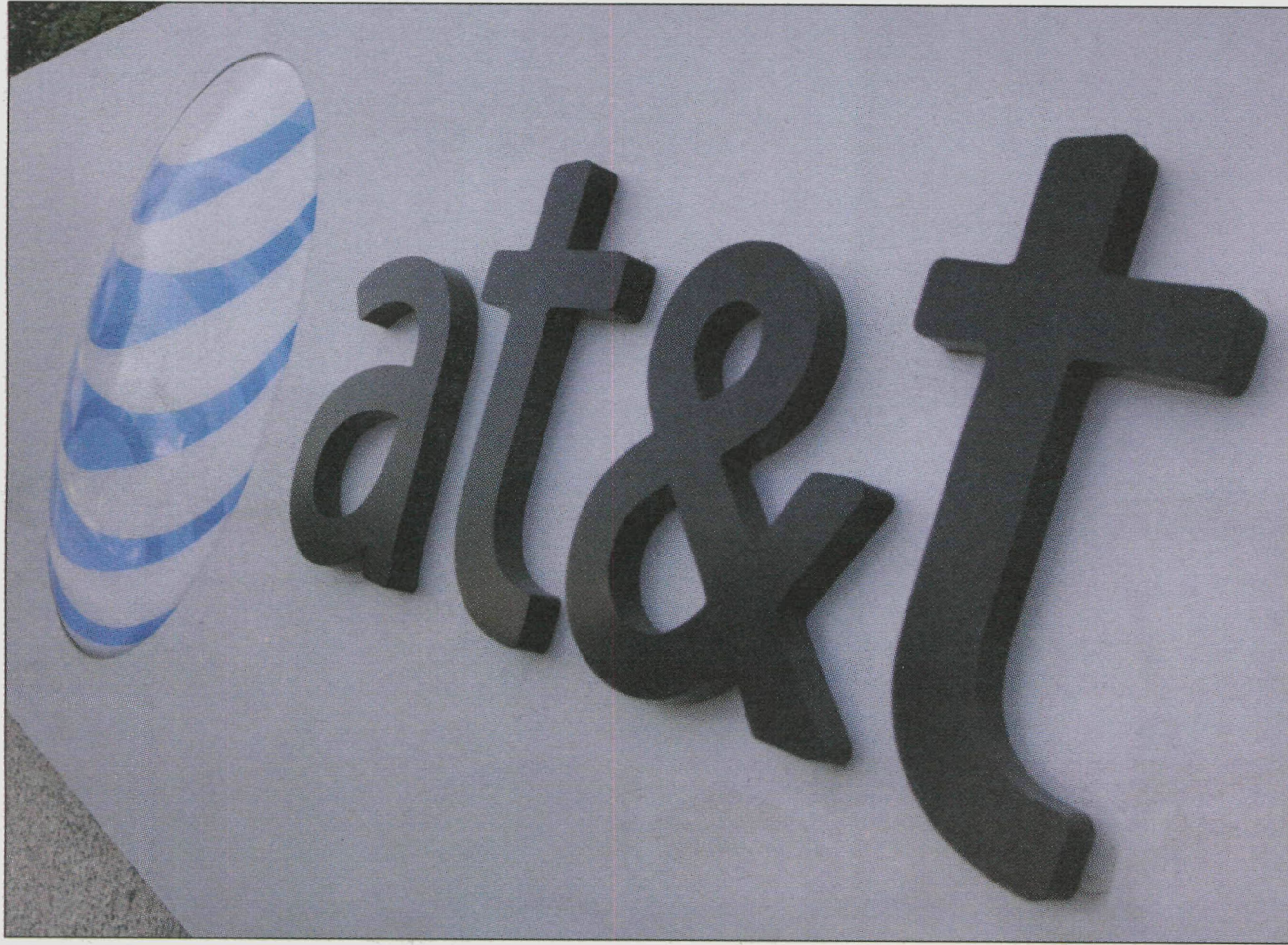


AT&T looks to hook up Fort Worth and area cities with fast fiber network



Dallas-based AT&T plans to dramatically increase Internet speeds.

Battle for speed

■ Doug Gross
CNN

AT&T has announced a plan that could see high-speed fiber Internet networks rolled out in as many as 100 cities in 21 metro regions throughout the United States including Fort Worth.

It's a move that puts the telecommunications company in a head-to-head battle with Google, which has begun its own charge to dramatically increase Internet speeds in various cities.

The network, called AT&T U-verse With GigaPower, is able to deliver broadband at up to 1 gigabit per second. That's roughly 100 times faster than current speeds in many parts of the nation.

The company plans to enter discussions with local leaders in areas it has identified as having suitable existing networks and likely high demand for the service.

"This initiative continues AT&T's ongoing commitment to economic development in these communities, bringing jobs, advanced technologies and infrastructure," the company said in a news release.

The metropolitan areas being considered are: Atlanta; Augusta, Georgia; Charlotte, N.C.; Chicago; Cleveland; Fort Worth; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Greensboro, N.C.; Houston; Jacksonville, Fla.; Kansas City, Kan.; Los Angeles; Miami; Nashville; Oakland, Calif.; Orlando, Fla.; San Antonio; San Diego; St. Louis;

San Francisco, and San Jose.

Along with Fort Worth, AT&T plans to expand into Arlington, Euless, Grand Prairie and Haltom City.

Dallas-based AT&T had already announced plans to install the high-speed network in Austin and Dallas, and says it is in "advanced discussions" with Raleigh-Durham and Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

It's worth emphasizing that none of this is a guarantee yet. More likely, it's AT&T publicly pointing out locations it thinks are good candidates for network upgrades.

Google, meanwhile, first launched Google Fiber in 2012. That service also promises speeds of 1 gigabit per second, which the company says could

allow someone at full capacity to download an entire feature-length movie in 38 seconds.

Google already has brought the service to Kansas City, Kan.; Austin, Texas; and Provo, Utah. Google connects fiberoptic cables directly to a home or office in order to give users broadband Internet and television service.

In Kansas City and Provo, Google's ultra-fast Internet service costs \$70 a month for Internet, or \$120 if you add streaming video.

In February, Google said it's exploring plans to lay down the special cables in nine more metro areas: Atlanta, Charlotte, Nashville, Phoenix, Portland, Raleigh-Durham, Salt Lake City, San Antonio and San Jose. That includes 34 cities in those regions. ■

Plano start-up spreads its wings

■ A. Lee Graham
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Tragedy and disaster inspired its creation, and now a Plano company developing emergency management software is expanding.

In the next 18 months, Countercepts Inc. aims to add as many as 200 employees as the start-up spreads its wings.

"The product has been tested and in use for three years and continues to draw interest," said Craig Thompson, president of the fledgling firm but no newcomer to technology.

Since 1988, Thompson has helped businesses solve technology challenges while employed at Morgan Stanley, Citi, Saguro Creative Technologies Inc. and Raymond James Consulting, among other firms.

Until striking out on his own with Countercepts in March, Thompson was a partner and vice president of Mirrored Storage Inc., a Plano-based cloud backup and data storage firm.

He continues filling that role while launching a company specializing in secure data backup, flexible cloud solutions and mobile device computing integration, but his latest venture raises the stakes.

Thompson reached into his own pocket and sank about \$350,000 into funding Countercepts.

In a modest office along the Dallas North Tollway in Plano, he develops software and already has a few clients using it, including The Claremont Colleges in California and other schools.

The clients use the emergency management software to control door locks, conduct camera surveillance and motion sensing, and notify students and faculty in the event of a natural disaster or campus violence.

It's an increasingly competitive industry as companies race to fill the rising demand for emergency management solutions.

"Go back to Oklahoma City or Columbine, and since that time, there's been an increase or uptick in these incidents," said Thompson, referring to the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building and the Colorado high school shooting, respectively.

Eager to promote the product and gain more clients, Thompson finds himself

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