DC++
your files, your way, no limits

DC++ : Using DC++ : Slow downloads speeds!

Question:

Answer: If you experience slow downloads, it could be for many reasons:

1. You need to optimize your operating system for your current connection speed. First close **all P2P applications**. Next run the TweakTest on this site. Once you have optimized it, then run a Speed Test (best idea to select the site closest to your location). This will give you a good idea what your maximum download and upload speeds are. If you're getting within 10% of your connection speed, that's the best you can get! If you are HAVING TROUBLE with your broadband connection, and it relates to packet loss, excessive latency, or internet or ISP congestion, running the Line Quality Test may help find the cause (*requires logon, free signup).*

2. The persons upload bandwidth who you are downloading from is maxed out. Don't pay attention to the speed listed in the *connection type* column, its completely subjective and often is not a true reflection on the persons connection type since they can set it. Find a person with fewer slots used, which should result in faster speeds.

3. The person who you are downloading from is using a bandwidth limiter. There are two types: client based and third-party program.
   * Often the client based types have set download/upload speed ratios in place so its not completely unfair. (e.x. If the upload speed limit is set below 6 kB/s, then the client will restrict the client download speed to a 2:1 ratio). This varies from client to client and obviously not all support upload limiting. This type of speed limiting *only* restricts the uploading of files. It does not limit getting the user lists or searches.
   * A common third-party program that people use for limiting speed is NetLimiter. This type of speed limiting is absolute; meaning it can/does limit the speed which you get/send filelists, userlists and searches. One can suspect a person is using a tool such as NetLimiter when you're downloads are under 1kB/s.

4. You are sharing the internet connection with others on your LAN and they are using up all the available bandwidth. Tell them to knock it off =)

5. QoS Packet Scheduler Bandwidth Limiting might be enabled on the operating system. Follow this guide on how to disable it on XP/Win2K3. Windows 9x/ME/2K does not natively come with QoS. QoS can also be enabled on your router (not by default though). Look through the manual on how to check if its enabled.

6. Your ISP may be limiting your P2P traffic via some method of packet shaping. This is very common at Universities and at the workplace. Call up the ISP and inquire if they do anything with P2P traffic. If the ISP *does* throttle you, then there is nothing that can be done to increase the speeds.

7. With asymmetrical connections (incoming data capacity is greater than outgoing, i.e. DSL, Cable, Satellite), uploading near your maximum **will** affect your downloading speed. For this, you can use the "Use small send buffer" under File -> Settings -> Advanced.

8. If the "Use small send buffer" still does not improve your download speed *when you are uploading at the same time*, then get a client with an upload limiter Check the list of client

features for those which have one. Set the upload limit to 90% of your upload speed. (ex. you have a 256kbps upload. 256**kbps** / 8 bytes = 32 **kB/s**. 32kB/s * 0.90 = 28.8kB/s. Set the upload limit to 29 kB/s).