

Burstable Internet Access

Thanks to the surge in cloud adoption, streaming and data-heavy workflows, reliable connectivity is now mission-critical. Yet traffic demands can change in an instant. Unexpected spikes and planned high-traffic events—like seasonal campaigns, product launches or large data transfers—can strain a fixed bandwidth plan, leading to performance issues or unnecessary overprovisioning costs. Our Burstable Internet Access gives you the flexibility to handle both, providing extra capacity when you need it without committing to higher fixed rates. With Burstable Internet Access, you stay prepared for the unexpected and ready for what's planned.

Key capabilities

- **Flexible bandwidth:** Burst beyond committed information rate (CIR) up to full port speed
- **Cost efficiency:** 95th percentile billing minimizes charges for short-term spikes
- **Dynamic pricing:** Pay only for the bandwidth you use beyond CIR
- **Scalable options:** Available on 1 Gbps and 10 Gbps ports (subject to location)
- **Best-effort delivery:** Burst traffic is routed on a best-effort basis, with SLAs applying only to CIR traffic data loss

Billing

Customers with a Crown Castle Internet Access or Dedicated Internet Access solution pay a monthly recurring charge (MRC) for a CIR, which guarantees bandwidth for sending and receiving traffic up to the CIR.

With Burstable Internet Access, billing includes:

- **Committed information rate:** Your guaranteed bandwidth, billed monthly at a fixed rate
- **Bursting charges:** Includes any extra bandwidth beyond CIR, up to your port speed

Billing for CIR is performed one month in advance, while bursting charges are billed one month after actual usage.

How pricing works

Burstable Internet Access follows the same term as your CIR. The MRC for bursting is calculated based on actual usage and is priced as a percentage of your CIR rate. For example, if your CIR is \$10 per Mbps, bursting may be billed at 110% of that rate, or \$11 per Mbps.

To determine usage, we measure inbound and outbound traffic every five minutes throughout the month. Using the 95th percentile method, the top 5% of samples are discarded and the next highest value becomes your billable usage. This ensures occasional spikes don't inflate your bill.

Your bill will reflect one of two scenarios*:

- **Billing scenario 1:** If your 95th percentile usage is equal to or less than your CIR, you pay only the CIR MRC.
- **Billing scenario 2:** If your 95th percentile usage exceeds your CIR, you pay the CIR MRC plus a bursting charge. The bursting charge is calculated as:

$(95\text{th percentile usage} - \text{CIR}) \times \text{Burst MRC per Mbps}$

*Burst traffic is routed on a best-effort basis with no SLA guarantee; standard SLAs apply only to CIR traffic. Aggregate billing across multiple ports is not supported at this time.

Pricing example

Consider an organization with a CIR of 2 Mbps and a burst limit of 5 Mbps on a 100 Mbps port. The CIR MRC is \$20, which equals \$10 per Mbps. Bursting is billed at 110% of the CIR rate, or \$11 per Mbps.

For this organization, the 95th percentile usage for the month is 2.6 Mbps—higher than the CIR—so billing scenario 2 applies. The burst traffic is calculated as 2.6 Mbps minus 2.0 Mbps, which equals 0.6 Mbps. This is multiplied by the burst rate of \$11 per Mbps, resulting in a bursting charge of \$6.60. Adding this to the CIR MRC of \$20 gives a total monthly charge of \$26.60.

Item	Calculation	Billing Amount
CIR MRC	2 Mbps × \$10/Mbps	\$20.00
Burst Traffic	(2.6 Mbps – 2.0 Mbps) = 0.6 Mbps	
Burst MRC	0.6 Mbps × \$11/Mbps	\$6.60
Total Monthly Charge	\$20.00 + \$6.60	\$26.60

Why Crown Castle?

Our unique, nationwide portfolio

With approximately 90,000 route miles of fiber, we own and operate one of the largest and densest fiber networks in the country with a presence in 23 of the top 25 US markets.

Our proven track record

In our 30+ years of experience owning and operating network assets we’ve seen it all and we’re always ready to adapt to changing network trends.

Our deep expertise

We’ve worked with nearly every industry so we understand your unique opportunities and challenges and can tailor solutions to meet your goals.

Our solutions

We have your networking and security needs covered. Visit our [infrastructure solutions](#) page to learn more about our suite of solutions and how they can solve your toughest challenges.



Crown Castle owns, operates and leases approximately 40,000 cell towers and approximately 90,000 route miles of fiber supporting small cells and fiber solutions across every major US market. This nationwide portfolio of communications infrastructure connects cities and communities to essential data, technology and wireless service—bringing information, ideas and innovations to the people and businesses that need them.