Chapter 9 Case Project

**OVERVIEW**

When planning for a global information system, Internet connection speed is an important factor that organizations need to take into account. Countries outside of a company’s home country could have slower or faster access which may affect the design and usability of a website.

**DISCUSSION**

Akamai is a global leader in Content Delivery Network services. They also provide a quarterly report of the state of global Internet connectivity. The first report for 2017 also shows notable Internet disruptions and broadband adoption metrics.

Some highlights of the report show that the global average connection speed was 7.2 mbps, which is a 15% increase year over year. The global peak connection speed increased 28% to 44.6 mbps in the first quarter. South Korea came in with the highest average speed at 28.6 mbps and Singapore had the highest peak with 184.5 mbps. Mobile connection was also touched on with average speeds ranging from a high of 26 mbps in the UK to a low of 2.8 mbps in Venezuela.

Connection disruptions are also a concern for GIS. According to this article, some of the notable disruptions included the Iraqi government blocking access to prevent cheating during middle and high-school exams and broken cables in Madagascar and the Marshall Islands.

With all of this in mind, it was surprising to see that the US doesn’t rank in the top 10 fastest connections. In fact, in the first quarter of 2017, the US ranked 28th in the world for average mobile connection speed. The top 10 in mobile connection included all European countries.

Average non-mobile Internet connection was another area that the US didn’t appear in the top 10. South Korea lead with a speed of 26.1 mbps. The rest of the top 10 included other Asian/Pacific countries Hong Kong, Singapore, and Japan and European countries Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, and the Netherlands. The US ranked 16th with a speed of 15.3 mbps.

**SUMMARY**

Internet connectivity speed and access are key factors that organizations must consider when designing a GIS. Simple content with a low amount of graphics and animation should be used in places whereas countries with higher speed like South Korea will probably expect more graphics and more sophisticated websites.

**SOURCES**

<https://www.akamai.com/us/en/about/news/press/2017-press/akamai-releases-first-quarter-2017-state-of-the-internet-connectivity-report.jsp>

<https://www.recode.net/2017/6/7/15747486/united-states-developed-world-mobile-internet-speeds-akamai>

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/news/Startup_and_IT/30315769>