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Velocity expands its speedy internet service in the city

By CHRIS GARDNER, Business editor - Waikato Times | Monday, 09 February 2009

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Velocity Networks has added Dora's Cafe, in Collingwood St, Hamilton, to its CafeNet ultra-fast WiFi service, bringing the number of locations it serves in the city up to 10.

Velocity, which has laid more than 40 kilometres of fibre optic cable in the city centre, already offers 100MB per second network connections at Claudelands Events Centre, Garden Place, Grey St outside Rocket, Hamilton Central Library, Hamilton Gardens, Hamilton Transport Centre, Seddon Park, Ward St outside Esquires and Waikato Stadium.

Telecom's high speed ADSL+ service, for example, delivers broadband at 24MB per second more than four times slower.

Nearly 100 customers use the NetCafe service by buying time online or buying a prepaid card at \$3 per hour.

Shane Hobson, business development manager at Velocity, said the independent local loop access provider had more than doubled its cabling in the last year and spent \$3 million on infrastructure.

The plan was to expand the service over time, he said, by adding more network connections in Victoria St. The next was likely to be at Domaine Restaurant.

"We are trying to create a corridor from Garden Place to London St," he said.

He said CafeNet was aimed at workers from out of town who wanted internet access or Hamilton workers who wanted to get out of their office with their laptop.

Velocity introduced CafeNet to Hamilton after hearing about it from Citylink, a similar company in Wellington.

"We decided we would do something new."

CafeNet is also available in Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Palmerston North, Wairarapa and Wellington through other providers.



KELLY HODEL/Waikato Times

FAST AS: Shane Hobson works online outside Dora's Cafe. Velocity plans to expand its internet service in the city over time.

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