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I am a 72-year old, principally using the internet to access and send e-mails and, more hesitantly, the occasional download.

I'd like to regard my ISP as the gatekeeper but would feel more confident if, on average once a week, a warning window does not appear to announce that AOL has encountered a problem and will have to shut down. Most inconvenient to have to close down and start all over again.

I can see the value of broadband to those whose business activities demand it, but cannot share the enthusiasm for it when viewed against the potential for mischief - unwanted ads, spam, viruses. For an occasional user like me, dial-up gives me more peace of mind.