

TorrentFreak

Torrent Speed Tips

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Torrent Client Configuration

In order to apply these tips you need to know your maximum up- and download speed. You can test your bandwidth [over here](#) (stop all download activity while testing). Also make sure that you applied the tips provided in our previous posts.

Note that there's a huge difference between **kb/s** (kilobits/second) and **kB/s** (kilobytes/second). To be precise, $\text{kB/s} = \text{kb/s} \text{ divided by } 8$. In this tutorial we use **kB/s** (like most torrent clients do). This means that you might need to calculate your max speed in kB/s yourself if the speedtest only gives you the results in kb/s (so divide by 8 then).

Settings 1-4 can be found in the *options, settings or preference tab* of most **torrent clients**.

1. Maximum upload speed

Probably the most important setting there is. Your connection is (sort of) like a pipeline, if you use your maximum upload speed there's not enough space left for the files you are downloading. So you have to cap your upload

speed. Use the following formula to determine your optimal upload speed...

80% of your maximum upload speed

So, if your maximum upload speed is 40 kB/s, the optimal upload rate is 32kB/s

But keep seeding!

2. Maximum download speed

Although setting your maximum download speed to unlimited may sound interesting, in reality it will only hurt your connection. If you still want to be able to browse properly, set your maximum download speed to:

95% of your maximum download speed

so if your maximum download speed is 400 kB/s, the optimal download speed is 380kB/s

3. Maximum connected peers per torrent

Yet another setting that you don't want to max out. I experimented quite a lot with the max connected peers settings and came to the conclusion that both high and low number hurt the download speed of a torrent. The following setting worked best for me.

upload speed * 1.3

so, if your maximum upload speed is 40 kB/s, the optimal amount of connected peers per torrent is

$$40 * 1.3 = 52$$

I didn't noticed a difference for fast or slow connections here.

4. Maximum upload slots

$$1 + (\text{upload speed} / 6)$$

So, if your maximum upload speed is 30 kB/s, the optimal number of upload slots is

$$1 + (30 / 6) = 6$$

5. Usenet

Usenet is an alternative to BitTorrent and considered to be the most “private” way to share files. In other words, no MPAA or RIAA watching your back. It is fast, has a lot of content and amazing download speeds without having to configure your download client.

The biggest disadvantage is that high speed Usenet servers are not free. You need at least some kind of paid subscription plan to be able to get decent speeds on Usenet. For some people this is not a problem, their argument often is that they already pay a lot of money for high speed broadband access, so why not pay a little extra to get the best speeds out of it.

We suggest a [free trial account](#) so you can test Usenet is something for you or not!

6. More tips

A. Seed.

Downloading speeds will be sub-optimal for everyone unless everyone plays their part and seeds. Private tracker sites are a great example of how the overall speed of the swarm increases when everyone is seeding and downloading in equal measure. So, play your part in seeding and tell others to as well.

B. Be connectable.

Make sure you're not "firewalled" by opening up your incoming ports or by enabling UPnP in your router, otherwise you'll be leaving bandwidth on the table.

D. Select the right torrents.

Your download will be faster if you choose to download a torrent where there is a good balance of seeds and peers. For instance, Vuze ranks its search results according to the number of seeds and peers to make this easier.

E. Be realistic.

Check the swarm average and if you're already above average, then you just need to be patient. If you're below average, go back and check some of these other things I've mentioned.

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