

GWS: Networks Take Stress on Day 1 of Super Mobility

In between the hardline business meetings, the coffee pick-me-ups and the “it’ll do the job” eats from the food court, it’s likely that by now you might have spotted a rare breed of engineer, trotting around the convention center with tablet in hand and one sleek backpack. As tradition dictates, this sighting is none other than the mobile network testing specialists over at Global Wireless Solutions (GWS), dutifully working to capture LTE data, VoLTE and HD voice performance metrics from the major mobile networks across the show floor.

Having trouble sending an email? Are your voice calls continually dropping? Or are you seeing blazing fast speeds? Here’s the breakdown of results for today, which may illuminate some pain points you’re experiencing or make you further fall in love with your carrier of choice.

Voice testing showed that AT&T, Sprint, and Verizon networks were able to successfully complete all VoLTE calls. T-Mobile’s VoLTE provided good service throughout the entrance hallways leading to the registration area. However, once inside the exhibit floor, T-Mobile struggled to set up audio calls with 11 failures periodically throughout all zones of the floor. Audio quality results for T-Mobile and Verizon were unchanged from yesterday, delivering the best HD voice quality, while only about 85% of AT&T’s and Sprint’s audio samples delivered solid HD quality.

With the flood of traffic arriving on Wednesday for the opening of Super Mobility, Verizon and AT&T were still able to deliver average download speeds in excess of 15 Mbps. At times, Verizon spiked up above 45

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Mbps per task, but Verizon did entertain one failure in the IoT Zone on the main floor. AT&T's download throughputs got up to 40 Mbps without any failures. Interestingly, Sprint was able to improve slightly upon yesterday's unloaded performance by consistently delivering 9-12 Mbps download on its dedicated 2500 MHz spectrum. T-Mobile's 20-MHz wide AWS channel crawled to a download of 1-3 Mbps through much of the morning (from an unloaded 14 Mbps yesterday), along with a failed task in the IoT Zone. However, T-Mobile seemed to rebound from the crush of traffic later in the morning, recovering back above 10 Mbps. Upload speed trends were similar to downloads, with AT&T and Verizon both able to upload 2 MB selfies in under 2.5 seconds. Sprint and T-Mobile took 5 seconds to do the same. Despite T-Mobile's other struggles, it experienced the lowest latency of about 50 msec. Verizon and AT&T latencies dipped to 70 msec from 62 msec yesterday, while Sprint delivered 85 msec.

Can you feel it? The networks are getting stressed and performance is being put to the test. Stay tuned for tomorrow's Show Daily with an updated breakdown of mobile performance. ●