

Review: USB Modem E3276 v2

By Leighton West (MelbPC iHelp) - July 2014

The Black 4G USB Modem is model E3276 v2. It operates at the following frequencies:

4G Bands (MHz) LTE 1800/2300 MHz (4G)

3G Bands (MHz) UMTS 900/2100 MHz (WCDMA, HSPA, HSPA+, DC-HSPA+)

GSM Bands (MHz) GSM: 850/900/1800/1900 MHz (GPRS)

External Interface Standard USB 2.0 high speed, Standard micro SD card

System Requirements Win XP SP3, Vista SP1/SP2, Win 7, Win 8, Mac OS X 10.5/10.6/10.7/10.8



This modem has two aerial sockets, one under the usual aerial cover and a second one inside the memory card cover. Both aerials can operate in (Dual channel) DC-HSPA+ mode using two connections at the same frequency in order to double the throughput on a 3G network. The actual connection made can vary depending on the tower capabilities, the signal and the duty being performed.

I have tested this modem in normal and low signal areas and found it to be much better than the E367 modem we have been selling through MelbPC. Firstly it has a throughput of more than 3 times, but more importantly it will run down to a signal level of 1 bar or less without dropping out. By comparison with the Mini Wi-Fi modem it offers external aerial connections and is more compact and robust.

Existing standard 3G SIMS can be used as the data cost is the same for both 3G and 4G, however members signing a new plan will pay more, since this modem is about three times the cost. Optus advise the APN varies with the SIM in use and can be "Optus Business", "Connectme", or "Connect". You can check this with Customer Care or just try each of these in the pre-sets provided.

The Outgoing email server could be mail.optusnet.com.au, but it is much better to use MelbPC Mail with a mail rule, if you want to keep a record of outgoing emails there.

The connection interface has a My Usage link to the Optus website, however I recommend signing up at www.optuszoo.com.au to ensure reliable connection. To create a new logon you will need the SMS phone number for your SIM which can be obtained from the My Usage Link or from Customer Care. This method is more accurate than any 3rd party program, uses less resources and can be set to email you when usage is high.

The Mini Wi-Fi is still useful where multiple devices are to be connected, or the signal is much better in a different room to the computer. My recommendation however is to avoid the old E367 from now on.