

“Always on”: 82 percent of Germans also surf on vacation

Frankfurt am Main, 24 July 2023: For most people, using the Internet is also part of their vacation – 82 percent of Germans are also online at their travel destination, according to a recent representative survey* by DE-CIX. Only ten percent of all respondents state that they do not use the Internet at all on vacation, and among Zoomers (Generation Z, 18 - 28 years) this figure drops to a mere four percent.

Baby Boomers emailing, Zoomers netflixing

What is surprising is that Baby Boomers (58 - 76 years old) in particular are also busy sending emails while on vacation. A full 39 percent of this age group also use email when they are away from home and work. Across all age groups, email still comes in at 28 percent, although it no longer plays a major role for Gen Z, at 11 percent.

What email is to Baby Boomers, video streaming is to Zoomers. At 23 percent, almost a quarter of this age group do not want to miss their favorite series on Netflix and the like, even when they are on vacation.

Chat, navigation, and weather apps most popular apps on vacation

In addition, applications that offer added value on vacation are particularly popular. For example, 45 percent of respondents use messengers like WhatsApp, etc.. Usage is much more pronounced among women (51 percent) than among men (39 percent). Navigation apps are also widespread, used by 38 percent of respondents. Weather apps form part of the vacation experience for around a third (36 percent). The latter are particularly popular among the Baby Boomers, where nearly half (46 percent) of respondents use them.

Accordingly, good connectivity at the travel destination is important to the respondents: Almost two-thirds (63 percent) of all survey participants expect free Wi-Fi in their home away from home. A generally stable Internet connection is important for 50 percent of respondents at their travel destination.

“The days when vacation means being offline are long gone. Smartphones and tablets have become constant travel companions and even when we’re taking time off at a holiday spot, most of us are ‘always on’. Today, reliable Wi-Fi in holiday accommodation is part of the minimum standards for tourists and is expected everywhere, despite increasingly good mobile tariffs,” says Ivo Ivanov, CEO at DE-CIX. “With the younger generations, we see that there is hardly any difference between their online behavior on vacation and in everyday life. They also like to use data-intensive applications like video streaming while on vacation. The older generation may use different services, such as weather or email applications, but their expectations of a stable Internet and good network coverage at their holiday destination are also high.”

*Methodology: On behalf of DE-CIX, YouGov surveyed a total of 2,009 people aged 18 and over between July 7 and 10, 2023, representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. The results were weighted. Note on Internet usage: The evaluation explicitly refers to private, not professional Internet use.

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About DE-CIX

DE-CIX is the world’s leading operator of Internet Exchanges (IXs). DE-CIX offers its interconnection services in close to 50 metro-markets in Europe, Africa, North America, the Middle East, and Asia. Accessible from data centers in over 600 cities world-wide, DE-CIX interconnects thousands of network operators (carriers), Internet service providers (ISPs), content providers and enterprise networks from more than 100 countries, and offers peering, cloud, and interconnection services. DE-CIX in Frankfurt, Germany, is one of the largest Internet Exchanges in the world, with a data volume of almost 34 Exabytes per year (as of 2022) and close to 1100 connected networks. More than 200 colleagues from over 30 different nations form the foundation of the DE-CIX success story in Germany and around the world. Since the beginning of the commercial Internet, DE-CIX has had a decisive influence – in a range of leading global bodies, such as the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) – on co-defining guiding principles for the Internet of the present and the future. As the operator of critical IT infrastructure, DE-CIX bears a great responsibility for the seamless, fast, and secure data exchange between people, enterprises, and organizations at its locations around the globe. Further information at www.de-cix.net

Media Contact DE-CIX:

Judith Ellis, Elisabeth Marcard, Viola Schreiber, Robert Stotzem & Carsten Titt – Global Public Relations – Telephone: +49 (0)69 1730902 130 – Email: media@de-cix.net