

Doug Bittenger, who we first profiled in an eCS newsletter more than two years ago for his use of technology in promoting his wood shop in the Smoky Mountains, has connected to a new career through the power of broadband. Doug, who often writes under the pen name Allan Douglas, has been writing articles for magazines and newspapers for over 30 years and has had two books published. In the past, he submitted manuscripts to publishers by printing them out - or in the early days; typed them and mailed them to an editor.

As more and more publishers embraced the Internet, it became possible to submit query letters and even manuscripts to newspapers and magazines electronically. Most book publishers still prefer paper manuscripts for legal reasons. Sending manuscripts by e-mail sped up the process considerably, especially if the writer had access to broadband Internet. Until recently, Doug did not.

Doug and his wife live on a rural property in the mountains of Cocke County in East Tennessee, and for most of the ten years they've lived there, dial-up Internet was all that was available to them.

They recently gained access to broadband Internet through Comcast, and having that access has made a world of difference in Doug's life as a writer.

A whole new world has opened up to writers through digital publishing. In the past few months Doug has been able to become a regular (twice monthly) columnist/blogger for Grit magazine, he has produced and syndicated through Kindle Digital Publishing two new blogs: Simple Life Prattle ([www.SimpleLifePrattle.com](http://www.SimpleLifePrattle.com)) and The Write Stuff ([www.AllanDouglas.com/blog/](http://www.AllanDouglas.com/blog/)), and has syndicated a blog he has written since 2005 for Smoky Mountain Woodworks, Daily Shop Notes ([www.dailyshopnotes.blogspot.com](http://www.dailyshopnotes.blogspot.com)).

"Before we acquired broadband access," states Doug, "publishing an article to the Shop Notes blog would take well over an hour because it uses a lot of photographs to illustrate the woodworking processes used in building a project. I used to joke that I could start a photo upload then go fix a meal in the time it took to complete. I had no desire to get into more than this one blog because of the time it took to post anything. But with broadband it takes only about ten seconds to upload a photo."

"Having this kind of speed available to me has allowed me to branch out and take on new projects. I am also able to use social media sites to promote my services and broaden my client base. I even produce a weekly radio program for our church that airs on WGSN 90.7 FM and is available through the church website ([www.NewportPresbyterian.com](http://www.NewportPresbyterian.com)) as streaming audio. I could not have done any of this over dial-up."

In addition to all this, the speed of broadband has allowed Doug to look more intently at writing books. E-Books are becoming quite popular and are available through all traditional bookseller websites as well as Amazon.com and a plethora of digital publishing websites. Through Print on Demand (POD) book services, authors can submit a manuscript electronically and offer the printed book through all online services as well through brick and mortar books stores. These books are printed and shipped only as they are ordered, thus eliminating the high cost of having to print hundreds or thousands of copies at a time.

Doug recently published "Kindle Your Blog" as an e-book through Kindle Digital Publishing, and his next book, "Writing for Profit or Pleasure: Where to Sell Your Work" is in the hands of his editor now and is expected to be published in April 2011.

Says Doug: "Broadband Internet has been a blessing to me. I would not have been able to open up any of these doors without it."