BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

AN EXTENDED GUIDE · NO. 1948

Updated November 2026

Free and Discounted Tech for Veterans

Military discounts and low-cost programs — and how to claim them

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1 The 60-Second Version

Veterans' tech savings in a breath.

Veterans and military members can access a lot of discounted and low-cost technology that many never realize is available. There are a few categories. First, tech-product discounts: major technology companies (like Apple, Microsoft, Dell, and others) offer military/veteran discounts on computers, tablets, phones, software, and accessories — often a percentage off, open to veterans as well as active duty.

Second, service discounts: phone and internet carriers (the major wireless companies and others) offer discounted plans for military members and veterans, which can save a meaningful amount monthly. Third, low-cost and free programs: government and nonprofit programs can help eligible people (including many veterans) get low-cost internet service and sometimes devices — for example, the long-standing federal Lifeline program helps low-income households (including qualifying veterans) with low-cost phone or internet.

To claim these, you typically need to prove your eligibility, which is usually done through an online verification service (a common one is ID.me) that confirms your military/veteran status, or by showing a military ID in a store — a one-time verification that then unlocks the discount. The key is knowing these offers exist, finding the ones you qualify for (check each company's military/veteran page), verifying your status, and claiming the savings.

Because specific offers, discount amounts, eligibility rules, and programs change frequently, always confirm the current details directly with each company or program before relying on an offer. These are real savings you've earned by serving — worth taking the time to find and claim. (Offers and eligibility vary and change — verify current details with each provider.)

- Veterans/military can access lots of discounted and low-cost tech many don't realize exists.

- Tech discounts: major companies (Apple, Microsoft, Dell, etc.) offer military/veteran discounts on computers, phones, software. Service discounts: carriers offer discounted military phone/internet plans.
- Low-cost programs: government/nonprofit help for low-cost internet and devices (e.g., the federal Lifeline program for low-income households including qualifying veterans).
- To claim: prove eligibility, usually via an online verification service (like ID.me) or a military ID in-store — a one-time check that unlocks the discount. Confirm current offers/eligibility directly with each provider, as they change.

WATCH OUT

The big picture: veterans and military members can access real tech savings many don't realize exist — in three categories: product discounts from major tech companies (Apple, Microsoft, Dell, etc. on computers, phones, software), service discounts from phone/internet carriers, and low-cost/free programs from government and nonprofits (like the federal Lifeline program). To claim them, you prove eligibility, usually through an online verification service (like ID.me) or a military ID. Find the offers you qualify for, verify, and claim — and confirm current details with each provider, since they change.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

2 What's Available

The kinds of savings for those who served.

The savings available to veterans and military members span several categories — from discounts on tech products to cheaper service plans to assistance programs. Knowing the categories helps you understand the range of what you might claim.

The main categories of savings

- Tech product discounts — major technology companies offer military/veteran discounts on their products: computers and laptops, tablets, phones, software (like office and operating-system software), and accessories. Companies commonly offering these include Apple, Microsoft, Dell, and many others, often as a percentage off, available to veterans and active duty alike.

- Phone and internet service discounts — the major wireless carriers and some internet providers offer discounted plans for military members and veterans, which can lower your monthly bill meaningfully. Worth checking with your carrier.
- Low-cost internet programs — government and nonprofit programs help eligible people (including many veterans, especially lower-income ones) get low-cost or subsidized internet service. The federal Lifeline program is a long-standing example helping low-income households with phone or internet.
- Low-cost or free devices — some programs and nonprofits provide low-cost or donated computers, phones, or tablets to veterans in need.
- Retailer discounts — many retailers (including electronics stores) offer general military discounts that can apply to tech purchases.
- Other benefits — depending on circumstances, there may be additional veteran benefits touching on technology (through the VA or veteran organizations) worth exploring.

Understanding the landscape of savings

The technology savings available to those who've served fall into a few broad categories, and understanding them helps you know where to look. The first and most widely applicable is tech product discounts from major technology companies: many of the big names — Apple, Microsoft, Dell, and numerous others — offer military and veteran discounts on their products, whether that's computers and laptops, tablets, smartphones, software (like productivity suites or operating-system products), or accessories.

These are commonly structured as a percentage off and, importantly, are frequently open to veterans as well as active-duty members, so if you're buying a new computer, phone, or software, it's worth checking whether the company offers a military/veteran discount. The second category is service discounts on phone and internet: the major wireless carriers, and some internet service providers, offer discounted plans for military members and veterans, which can reduce your monthly bills by a meaningful amount over time — a recurring saving that's well worth setting up if you qualify, so check with your carrier or provider.

The third category is low-cost and assistance programs, run by government and nonprofits, aimed especially at helping lower-income people (including many

veterans) afford connectivity and devices: a prominent, long-standing example is the federal Lifeline program, which helps eligible low-income households get low-cost phone or internet service, and qualifying veterans may be eligible; there are also various programs and nonprofits that provide low-cost or donated computers, phones, or tablets to veterans in need.

Beyond these, many general retailers (including electronics stores) offer military discounts that can apply to technology purchases, and there may be additional veteran benefits touching on technology through the VA or veteran service organizations worth exploring for your situation. The overall landscape, then, is that savings exist at multiple levels — on the devices and software you buy, on your ongoing phone and internet service, and through assistance programs for those who need help affording technology — and a veteran or military member can often stack up real savings across these by taking advantage of the ones they qualify for.

The challenge, as the next chapters address, is simply knowing about them, finding the ones you qualify for, and claiming them (which usually involves verifying your status). But knowing the categories of what's available is the starting point. Because the specific companies offering discounts, the discount amounts, and the programs all change over time, treat these as the kinds of savings to look for rather than a fixed list, and confirm the current specifics directly with each company or program.

GOOD TO KNOW

Veterans' and military tech savings come in three main categories: (1) product discounts from major tech companies (Apple, Microsoft, Dell, and others — on computers, phones, software; often open to veterans too), (2) service discounts from phone/internet carriers (lowering your monthly bills), and (3) low-cost/assistance programs from government and nonprofits (like the federal Lifeline program, and device-donation programs for veterans in need). You can often stack savings across these. Treat them as kinds of savings to look for, and confirm current specifics with each provider.

VERIFICATION

3

How Verification Works

Proving you qualify.

To claim military and veteran discounts, you generally need to prove your eligibility — and understanding how this verification works removes a common barrier. It's usually a straightforward, one-time process through an online service or by showing ID.

How you prove eligibility

- Online verification services — most online military/veteran discounts use a third-party verification service to confirm your status. A very common one is ID.me, which many companies use; you create an account and verify your military/veteran status once (by providing information and documents), and then it confirms your eligibility to participating companies.
- A one-time setup, reused — once you've verified through a service like ID.me, you can often use that verified status across many different companies that use the same service, so you don't re-prove it every time — a convenient single sign-in to your veteran status.
- In-store with a military ID — for in-person purchases, showing your military or veteran ID (or other proof of service) at the store often qualifies you for the discount directly.
- Documents you may need — verification may ask for proof of service such as a military ID, discharge papers (DD-214), VA documentation, or similar; have these available.
- Each company's process — some companies have their own verification page or process; follow the specific steps on the company's military/veteran discount page.
- It protects the discount — verification exists to ensure these benefits go to those who actually served, which is why it's required; it's a reasonable, usually quick step.

Making verification painless

The step that sometimes puts people off claiming military and veteran discounts is proving eligibility — but it's usually simpler than expected and, once done, often reusable across many offers. For online purchases and discounts, the common approach is a third-party verification service that confirms your military or veteran

status on behalf of the companies offering discounts.

The most widely used such service is ID.me, which a great many companies rely on: you create an ID.me account and go through its verification process once — providing your information and, if needed, documents proving your service — and ID.me then confirms your eligibility to the participating companies when you shop. The real convenience here is that this is largely a one-time setup you can reuse: once you've verified your veteran or military status with a service like ID.me, you can typically use that verified status across all the different companies that use the same service, without re-proving it each time — effectively a single, reusable confirmation of your status that unlocks discounts wherever that service is accepted.

For in-person purchases, verification is often even simpler: you show your military ID, veteran ID card, or other proof of service at the store, and you get the discount directly. In terms of documentation, verification may ask for proof of service such as a military ID, your discharge papers (the DD-214), VA documentation, or similar records, so it helps to have these available when you set up your verification.

Some companies run their own verification process rather than using a shared service, so you may occasionally need to follow a specific company's steps — in which case you'll find them on that company's military/veteran discount page. It's worth understanding that verification exists for a good reason: it ensures these benefits actually reach the people who served, which is why companies require it, and it's a reasonable and usually quick step rather than a real obstacle.

The practical upshot is that setting up a verification (particularly with a widely-used service like ID.me) once, and keeping your proof-of-service documents handy, makes claiming the many available discounts straightforward from then on. Don't let the verification requirement discourage you — it's typically a simple, one-time hurdle that opens the door to ongoing savings. (The specific verification services and processes companies use can change, so follow the current instructions on each company's discount page, and be sure to use official, legitimate verification channels.)

GOOD TO KNOW

Verification is usually a one-time, reusable step. Many companies' online military/veteran discounts use a shared verification service (a common one is ID.me): verify your status once, and you can often reuse that verified status across all the companies that use the same service — no re-proving each time. For in-store purchases, just showing your military or veteran ID often works. Have your proof of service (military ID, DD-214, or VA documentation) handy. Use only official verification channels, and follow each company's current process.

FIND & CLAIM

4 How to Find and Claim the Savings

Putting it into practice.

With an understanding of what's available and how verification works, claiming the savings comes down to finding the offers you qualify for and going through the simple steps. Here's how to put it into practice and actually get the discounts you've earned.

Finding and claiming discounts

1. Check before you buy tech — before purchasing any computer, phone, software, or service, check whether the company offers a military/veteran discount. Look for a 'Military' or 'Veterans' link on their website (often in the footer or a dedicated page), or search '[company] military discount.'
2. Check your phone and internet providers — ask your wireless carrier and internet provider about military/veteran plans or discounts; they often have them and can apply them to your account.
3. Set up a verification account — create an account with the main verification service companies use (like ID.me) and verify your status once, so you're ready to claim online discounts easily.
4. Look into assistance programs if relevant — if you could use help affording internet or a device, look into programs like Lifeline and veteran-focused nonprofits; check eligibility and apply.

5. Use your ID in stores — for in-person tech purchases, bring and show your military/veteran ID to get in-store discounts.
6. Confirm the current offer — since offers change, confirm the current discount, eligibility, and terms directly with the company or program before relying on it.
7. Stack where you can — claim discounts across products, services, and programs you qualify for to maximize your savings over time.

Getting the savings you've earned

Turning the available savings into actual money saved is mostly a matter of making it a habit to check for military and veteran discounts and going through the simple claiming steps. The single most useful habit is to check before you buy: whenever you're about to purchase technology — a computer, phone, tablet, software, or accessory — take a moment to check whether the company offers a military or veteran discount, which you can do by looking for a 'Military' or 'Veterans' link on their website (often in the page footer or on a dedicated discounts page) or by simply searching the company's name plus 'military discount.' Many major tech companies do, and you'd be surprised how often a discount is available for the asking.

Similarly, check your ongoing services: ask your wireless carrier and internet provider whether they offer military or veteran plans or discounts, since these can lower your monthly bills and the carriers can usually apply them to your account once you verify. To make claiming online discounts smooth, it's worth setting up an account with the main verification service that companies use (commonly ID.me) and verifying your status once, so you're ready to claim discounts quickly whenever you shop.

If you could use help affording internet service or a device, look into the assistance programs — like the federal Lifeline program and veteran-focused nonprofits that provide low-cost internet or devices — checking your eligibility and applying as appropriate. For in-person purchases, simply bring and show your military or veteran ID to get in-store discounts.

Throughout, because offers and eligibility rules change over time, always confirm the current discount, terms, and eligibility directly with the company or program before relying on an offer — don't assume a discount you heard about is still available or applies to you without checking. And take advantage of stacking: since savings exist

across products, services, and assistance programs, a veteran can claim multiple discounts over time — a discount on a new laptop, a reduced phone plan, help with internet — adding up to substantial savings.

The overarching point is that these are real benefits you've earned through your service, and they're genuinely worth the modest effort to find and claim: a habit of checking for discounts before buying, a one-time verification setup, and a look into relevant assistance programs can save you a meaningful amount on technology. Many veterans leave these savings unclaimed simply because they don't know about them or don't take the step to check — so the key is awareness and a little initiative.

If sorting out which discounts you qualify for or setting up verification feels confusing, it's an easy thing to get a hand with. (Confirm current offers, eligibility, and programs directly with each provider, as they change frequently, and use only official channels.)

> **TIP**
>
> The most useful habit: check before you buy. Whenever you're about to purchase tech — a computer, phone, software, or accessory — look for a 'Military' or 'Veterans' link on the company's site (often in the footer) or search '[company] military discount.' Also ask your wireless carrier and internet provider about military/veteran plans. Set up a verification account (like ID.me) once so claiming online discounts is quick. And stack savings across products, services, and assistance programs you qualify for. Always confirm the current offer directly with the provider.

COMMON QUESTIONS

5 Common Questions

The veterans' tech questions, answered.

“Do veterans qualify, or just active duty?”

Many offers are available to veterans as well as active-duty members — but it varies by company and program, so you should check each one. A lot of major tech

companies' military discounts explicitly include veterans (and often military families too), not just active duty, so don't assume you're excluded as a veteran — in many cases you qualify.

That said, eligibility rules differ: some offers are for active duty only, some include veterans, some include reservists, retirees, or family members, and assistance programs have their own criteria (often income-based). The reliable approach is to check the specific eligibility for each discount or program you're interested in, which is stated on the company's or program's military/veteran page, and to verify your particular status through their process.

When in doubt, it's worth checking rather than assuming — you may well qualify.

"What is ID.me and why do I need it?"

ID.me is an online identity-verification service that many companies (and some government programs) use to confirm your military or veteran status so you can claim discounts. Rather than each company verifying your service separately, they rely on ID.me (or a similar service) to confirm you're eligible. You create an account and verify your status once — providing your information and proof of service — and then your verified status can be used across the many companies that accept that service, without re-proving it each time.

So it's a convenient, reusable way to prove your eligibility for discounts online. You don't strictly 'need' it for every discount (some use other methods, and in-store you can show ID), but because it's so widely used, setting up a verified account once makes claiming online military/veteran discounts much easier. Use only the official, legitimate service, and follow each company's instructions.

"Are there programs for low-cost internet or devices?"

Yes — there are government and nonprofit programs that help eligible people, including many veterans (especially lower-income ones), get low-cost internet service and sometimes devices. A prominent, long-standing example is the federal Lifeline program, which helps eligible low-income households afford phone or internet service, and qualifying veterans may be eligible. There are also various nonprofits and

programs that provide low-cost or donated computers, phones, or tablets to veterans in need.

Eligibility for these is usually based on income or participation in certain assistance programs, so you'd check the specific criteria and apply if you qualify. If affording internet or a device is a challenge, these programs are genuinely worth looking into. Because such programs and their details change over time, confirm the current programs, eligibility, and application process (official sources are best) for your situation.

“How do I make sure an offer is current and legitimate?”

Always confirm directly with the company or program through their official website or channels, rather than relying on secondhand information or unofficial sites. Offers, discount amounts, and eligibility rules change frequently, so a discount you heard about may have changed or ended — check the company's own military/veteran discount page for the current terms. For verification, use only the official, legitimate verification services and the company's genuine process; be cautious of any site asking for sensitive information outside the official channels, as scammers sometimes target veterans.

Stick to well-known companies' official pages, government program sites, and reputable verification services. If an 'offer' seems off, asks for unusual information, or comes from an unsolicited source, be skeptical and verify through official channels. Doing this keeps you safe while you claim the genuine savings you've earned — which are real and available through legitimate providers.

WRAP UP

6 Claim the Savings You've Earned

Real benefits, worth the effort.

There's a genuine wealth of discounted and low-cost technology available to veterans and military members — savings that many never claim simply because they don't know about them. The available benefits span several categories: product discounts from major tech companies (Apple, Microsoft, Dell, and many others, on computers, phones, software, and more, often open to veterans as well as active duty); service discounts from phone and internet carriers that lower your monthly bills; and low-cost or assistance programs from the government and nonprofits (like the federal Lifeline program and device-donation efforts) that help eligible people afford connectivity and devices.

To claim these, you generally prove your eligibility through a verification service (commonly ID.me, which you set up once and reuse across many companies) or by showing a military/veteran ID in stores — a reasonable, usually one-time step. The practical path is to build the habit of checking for a military or veteran discount before buying any technology, ask your carriers and providers about military plans, set up your verification once, look into assistance programs if you could use help affording internet or a device, and stack the savings across the products, services, and programs you qualify for.

Throughout, always confirm the current offer and eligibility directly with each company or program through official channels, since the specifics change frequently and it keeps you safe from scams. These are real benefits you've earned through your service, and with a little awareness and initiative they can add up to meaningful savings on the technology you use.

Don't leave them unclaimed — take the time to find and claim the discounts and programs you qualify for. (Specific offers, eligibility, and programs vary and change frequently, so always confirm current details directly with each provider, and use only official, legitimate channels.)

- Veterans/military can access real tech savings in three categories: product discounts (major tech companies, often open to veterans), service discounts (carriers), and low-cost/assistance programs (government/nonprofit).
- Claim them by proving eligibility — usually via a verification service (commonly ID.me, set up once and reused) or a military/veteran ID in stores.
- Build the habit: check for a military discount before buying tech, ask carriers about military plans, set up verification once, look into assistance programs, and stack savings.
- Always confirm current offers and eligibility directly with each provider through official channels (they change, and it keeps you safe from scams).
- These are real benefits you've earned — worth the little effort to find and claim. Don't leave them unclaimed.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you'd like a hand claiming the tech savings you've earned through your service — figuring out which companies offer military or veteran discounts on what you're buying, asking your carrier about military plans, setting up a verification account (like ID.me) so claiming is easy, or looking into low-cost internet and device programs you might qualify for — that's exactly the kind of practical help I'm glad to provide, so you don't leave real savings unclaimed. Always confirm current offers and eligibility directly with each provider through official channels, since they change frequently and it keeps you safe from scams. Thank you for your service.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy. It points you straight to what to do for each task.

I want to...	Do this...
Who qualifies	Veterans, active duty, and often military families (varies)
Tech discounts	Computers, phones, software from major tech companies
Service discounts	Carriers offer discounted phone/internet plans for military
Low-cost programs	Government/nonprofit help for low-cost internet and devices
Verification	Usually prove eligibility via a service (like ID.me) or military ID
Confirm current	Offers and eligibility change — verify directly with each provider
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

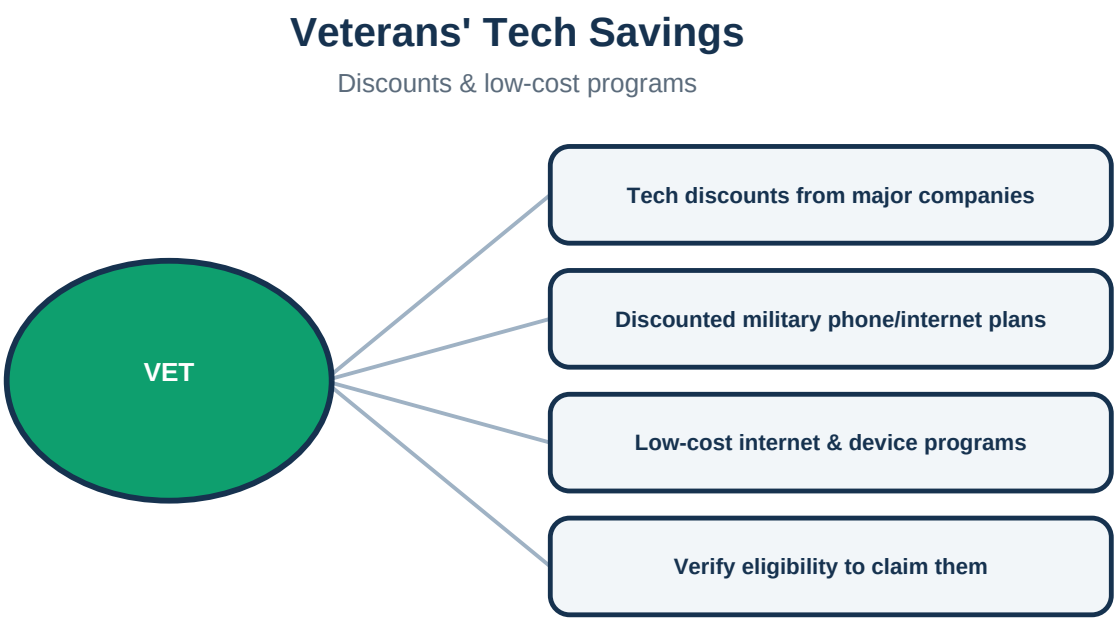


Illustration — a schematic. Set-up screens differ; each takes only a few minutes.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Claim the Savings

The steps

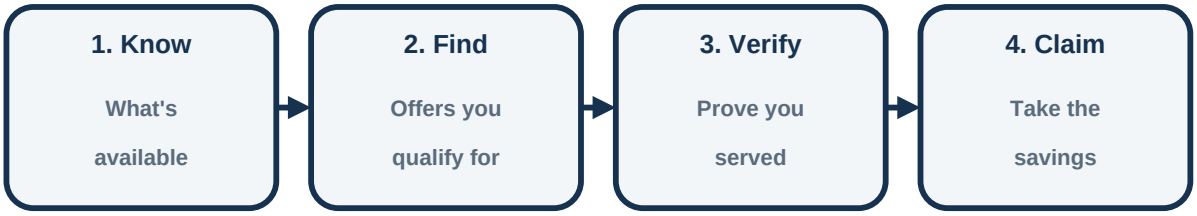


Illustration — a schematic. The order is a suggestion; do one box at a time.

A schematic of the plan — company steps vary; the order does not have to.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

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