# As coal falls, a digital revolution begins in Appalachia. This hurdle blocks the way.

By Gabriel Sanchez

The GroundTruth Project

November 12, 2017 6:05 PM

PIKEVILLE

**Editor's note:** *This story is part of Crossing the Divide, a cross-country reporting road trip from The GroundTruth Project and WGBH. The team of five reporters is exploring issues that divide us and stories that unite us. Follow their trip across America at* [xthedivide.org](xthedivide.org)*.*

Silicon Valley, meet Appalachian Mountains.

In Eastern Kentucky, in the heart of rural Appalachia and amid the coal-dust remnants of the Industrial Revolution, a nascent digital revolution is taking shape. After the rapid decline of the coal industry, Eastern Kentuckians are attempting to diversify the region's economy, but limited access to broadband internet poses a significant challenge.

Read more here:
[http://www.kentucky.com/news/state/article184266763.html#storylink=cpy](http://www.kentucky.com/news/state/article184266763.html#storylink=cpy)

Last updated on November 13, 2017.

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