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Internet switch as Kern logs off for good

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ADELAIDE internet-service provider Kern Internet will close tomorrow with most of the firm's 7000 customers migrating to Adam Internet.

Kern's owners, Phil and Tina Kern, have decided on a change of direction, opting to concentrate on consultancy work for select clients rather than continuing a small business open to the public.

"We would rather be going out and interacting with our clients than just selling internet connections," Mr Kern said of the decision to get out after running the business for the past 18 years.

"We have not gone out the back door and we are not in financial trouble."

Kern's customers, about 80 per cent residential and the rest business, have been offered a fee-free transfer to Adam Internet.

They will retain their current internet addresses in the short term and most are migrating to similar plans at about the same price.

Adam Internet managing director Scott Hicks welcomed the new customers, most of them on ADSL plans.

"Having an existing relationship with Kern Internet meant we were able to reach an agreement that ensures its customers were not left in the lurch and can transfer seamlessly across to us," he said.

Kern has been using Adam's data centre and ADSL ports.

Kern has been paid an undisclosed amount for the transfer and its three permanent employees have been given an opportunity to apply to work at Adam.

The influx represents a significant boost for Adam which has about 70,000 customers.

The move is one step on its three-year growth target of 300,000 customers.