

“My Internet is so slow..”

A D-Link guide on how you can improve Internet performance at home, and why upgrading your wireless network is the best decision you'll make this year

Our homes are more connected than ever before. Devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops, and activities including online gaming and streaming of live TV all rely on wireless access to the Internet. It seems like even the family dog has an Internet-connected water bowl these days!

Wi-Fi is essential to our connected lives, but just like the lanes on a motorway, all the traffic from these devices is creating connectivity congestion. This is due to the number of devices we now connect to our Wi-Fi, as well as competition and interference from microwaves, doorbells and even the neighbour's Wi-Fi.

As a result, most of us have experienced the frustration of slow, or complete lack of, wireless connection. While people often blame their laptop or smartphone, their Internet Service Provider (ISP) or the service or website they're trying to access, it is often the router in your home that is causing the problems. Similarly, while in many cases the router is provided by the ISP, homeowners don't realise that this is normally a very basic product, which can be easily - and affordably - replaced.

How to solve a problem like bad Wi-Fi

The most common standard of Wi-Fi used today, Wireless N, is rapidly being replaced by Wireless AC. This is the next generation of Wi-Fi, designed to meet the needs of our increasingly mobile, multimedia world.

Wireless AC (or alternatively 802.11ac, 'Gigabit' or even '5G Wi-Fi') delivers speeds of up to four times faster compared to Wireless N. That's fast enough to hold a video call with family, game online and share photo albums with friends in a matter of seconds, or even stream multiple high definition videos, all at the same time.

But added speed is not the only advantage Wireless AC brings – it can also help solve some of the most common wireless access problems that you face in your home

Consider the following frustrations – if you experience any of these, now is the time to consider upgrading to a Wireless AC router:

1. Slow web pages, buffering video and time lag in games

Problems occur when too many devices try to connect to the same wireless network simultaneously. You can see this when you have continuous buffering or web pages take a long time to load, as everyone in the household tries to get online.

Wireless AC offers greater speed and better support for more simultaneous connections, which means less time waiting, even if the entire family is online.

2. Poor Wi-Fi signal and dead spots around the home

A poor wireless signal can also dramatically affect Internet performance. This can be caused by physical obstacles (including walls and floors) that impede the signal, such as in basements and attics. A variety of household appliances can also cause wireless interference, including cordless phones and microwave ovens.

Wireless AC has more uniformly standardised a feature known as 'beamforming'. This technology helps improve range and reliability by focusing the signal more accurately at devices that are connected to the network. Not every Wireless AC router comes with beamforming, so if you're having a problem with dead spots, you should make sure your router includes this feature.

3. More streaming video / real-time services

There's probably at least one person in your home that uses the Internet for streaming video from YouTube, Netflix or on-demand TV, or wants to game online or make video calls. There is also likely to be someone working who wants to use online services like Office 365, or connect remotely to the office. All of these require a highly reliable Internet connection.

As Wireless AC works at a higher and wider radio band there is less noise and interference from competing technologies and more space for multiple streams of data traffic and devices. This translates to guaranteed connectivity for everyone

4. Constantly charging devices

Transferring data is a big battery drain on mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops.

Because data is transferred faster using Wireless AC, your devices use less power. Those savings mean you can use your device for longer without needing to charge it so often.

All of these applications require a reliable Internet connection to operate effectively. So if you're looking at moving onto Office 365 or taking up Google Docs, it's imperative to make sure your wireless connection can handle it. The faster speeds and more reliable connection that Wireless AC offers will ensure that staff won't be highly frustrated when using these online services.

Why Wireless AC?

All this congestion is already straining the capabilities of Wireless N, effectively putting you in the digital 'slow lane'. When you think about how much time we spend connected to our digital lives, it makes sense to invest in faster Wi-Fi to enjoy richer content on more devices simultaneously. Wireless AC means less time waiting and a better signal no matter how many people or devices are using one network. This means enhanced browsing, streaming and gaming experiences .

For many households, this can be achieved by simply upgrading the router in the home to one that supports Wireless AC.

The future of wireless starts with Wireless AC, and with D-Link, it can start today. D-Link was the first to market with Wireless AC products and already has an extensive portfolio of routers and adapters available. With a model to suit every situation and budget, customers can rest assured that they can connect to their existing Wi-Fi devices while improving their home network and reaping the full benefits of Wireless AC straight away.



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