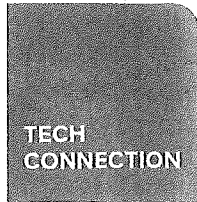


The internet of things is numerous electronic devices communicating with each other, and/or the internet, with little to no human intervention.

WRITE:
1 paragraph SUMMARY
1 paragraph CONCLUSION



by MARC SALTZMAN

Wish your Wi-Fi at home was faster? Had better range? Supported more devices? All three of these common issues may be a thing of the past with Wi-Fi 6, a buzzworthy new wireless standard you'll hear a lot more about in 2020. Here's a simple primer.

What's Wi-Fi 6?

Also referred to as 802.11ax, Wi-Fi 6 can transmit wireless signals more efficiently than ever before. In the speed department, industry experts say, Wi-Fi 6 will be conservatively about 30% faster than what you're using now (likely, 802.11ac), with theoretical speeds up to a blazingly fast 10 gigabits per second (real-world speeds may be slower). Any way you slice it, Wi-Fi 6 delivers seriously impressive speeds for streaming 4K video, playing online games and supporting all your smart home devices.

What do you need?

To benefit from Wi-Fi 6, you'll need a compatible router—which may or may not be the same box as your high-speed modem from your internet service provider (ISP)—as well as Wi-Fi 6-enabled devices, such as laptops, smartphones, tablets and so on. Be aware, however, that your internet speeds also hinge upon what your ISP gives you. In other words, buying a fast Wi-Fi 6 router won't help much if you're only paying for modest internet service.

Is it backward-compatible?

Yes. So, even if you have older devices, like an aging computer or printer, the



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Wi-Fi 6 router will still work with them. But again, you'll only experience the fastest performance that device is capable of.

What other benefits are there?

Wi-Fi 6 supports more simultaneous devices, which is good, because chances are you have multiple Wi-Fi-enabled tech gadgets in your home. Plus, you can enjoy greater range, with fewer dead zones, and less interference between devices (which could impede performance).

Wi-Fi 6 routers and devices also use less power—which might help lower your utility bills a tad—yet pack more information into each signal they send.

What can't Wi-Fi 6 do?

If your internet service is slow, a Wi-Fi 6 router can't magically boost it. Budget permitting, ensure you have the latest modem and go with the fastest service your ISP offers. ■

Why Wi-Fi 6?

Giving a boost to the "internet of things" in your home



SEVAG SASHERIAN

Marc Saltzman is a leading high-tech reporter and author. He's on Twitter @marc_saltzman. Saltzman will answer selected questions in this column. He regrets that unpublished questions cannot be answered individually.

Email
connection@costco.com
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COSTCO CONNECTION

Look for Wi-Fi 6 products on Costco.com now, and in warehouses beginning in February.

Improve your Wi-Fi

Here's how to get more out of your home Wi-Fi setup:

- Keep your wireless router as close to the center of your home as possible, to provide

maximum reach, and refrain from keeping your router in the basement.

- Keep your router in the open and elevate it on a desk, table or bookshelf.
- In a larger home (or an

older home, with concrete walls) consider a mesh network.

- Have a strong password on your home's Wi-Fi connection so no one can steal your Wi-Fi.—MS