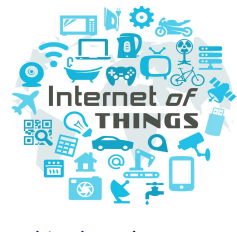


Residential Wireless – you need to read this.

It seems simple, get a router with wireless for your home and you're good. If it doesn't work, get a more expensive one. Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way.

The world of wireless has changed in the last 2 years. A new group of wireless standards have come out and something called The Internet of Things (IoT) has invaded our homes. The wireless standards are incredibly boring, just know it is 802.11ac and has two frequencies, 2.4Mhz and 5Mhz. There is one aspect of how wireless works and is something you need to understand.



Before we get to what you need to understand about wireless you also need to know that the IoT has doubled in sales every 9 months for the last 27 months. Pretty impressive! There are a lot of Amazon Echo's and Nest products out there, plus the smart printers, smart locks, smart lighting, smart coffee makers, smart toasters, smart crock pots, smart microwaves, smart refrigerators, smart garage door openers and on and on..... The average house won't be able to work with the "Old" wireless. Why?



Glad you asked. A wireless router broadcasts a signal saying "Here I am, my name is "XXX" ". That "XXX" is the SID (System Identification). The signal your router is sending out is pretty strong. Some Wireless Routers have stronger signals than others, but most don't. When your Smart Phone sees the SID, it tries to connect to it, but your smart phone doesn't normally operate at the same power as your wireless router. It's kind of like the Wireless router is yelling and your smart phone is whispering back. Your smart phone sends a signal to the Wireless router to connect. If it doesn't get a response, it ups the power, using more battery. It does this repeatedly, increasing the power a little bit at a time until it connects. All wireless devices work this way when they connect to an access point.

You probably see where I'm going. If you could have more wireless routers set at lower power, you'd have better coverage and your batteries would last longer. Great Idea! But you usually only need one router. The other wireless devices are called Access Points in business. For homes, several years ago, manufacturers came up with something that kind of works called an extender. BUT that whole system can only handle a couple users at one time. With the IoT, that won't.

With the increase of devices in the home, manufacturers realized they needed to come up with new devices that had the capacities and coverage of commercial equipment, but with the simplicity and features associated with home use and IoT. They've stepped up to the plate



and are doing well. There's a new class of wireless routers and connected access points that do EXTREMELY well. They use Mesh technology to extend the signal from the router to the satellites, usually 2 or 3 satellites. Prices start at about \$300 and go up to \$500. Some have built in firewalls that do basic filtering, nothing like business class firewalls, but they meet the basic needs for a family with kids and a LOT of wireless devices.

Installation of most of these devices is easy and takes about 15 minutes. Some even integrate with Alexa or Google Home. You can manage them from your smart phone on all of them. There is a wealth of information on them online. If you'd prefer to chat with us, or purchase from us, feel free to call anytime.