

Wi-Fi Alliance

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Wi-Fi is Freedom


Wi-Fi, or Wireless Fidelity, is freedom: it allows you to connect to the Internet from your couch at home, a bed in a hotel room or a conference room at work without wires. How? Wi-Fi is a wireless technology like a cell phone. Wi-Fi enabled computers send and receive data indoors and out, anywhere within the range of a base station. And the best thing of all, it's fast. In fact, it's several times faster than the fastest cable modem connection.

However, you only have true freedom to be connected anywhere if your computer is configured with a Wi-Fi CERTIFIED radio (a PC Card or similar device). Wi-Fi certification means that you will be able to connect anywhere there are other compatible Wi-Fi CERTIFIED products — whether you are at home, the office or corporate campus, or in airports, hotels, coffee shops and other public areas equipped with Wi-Fi access available.

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Wi-Fi CERTIFIED = Confidence

Look for the Wi-Fi CERTIFIED logo with color-coded Standard Indicator Icons (SII) on product packaging or search through our Web site listing of CERTIFIED products before making a Wi-Fi purchase. The Wi-Fi CERTIFIED logo is your only assurance that a product has met rigorous interoperability testing requirements to ensure that compatible products from different vendors will work together. The Wi-Fi CERTIFIED logo means that it's a "safe" buy. The color-coded Standard Indicator Icons or "SII" displayed with the logo will assist you in selecting products that are interoperable. Products displaying the same SII on their packaging are certified to work together. Below are some examples of the Wi-Fi CERTIFIED logo with SII.



The Wi-Fi Alliance (formerly WECA) is the global Wi-Fi organization that created the Wi-Fi brand. A nonprofit organization, the Alliance was formed in 1999 to certify interoperability of IEEE 802.11 products and to promote them as the global, wireless LAN standard across all market segments. The Wi-Fi Alliance has instituted a test suite that defines how member products are tested to certify that they are interoperable with other Wi-Fi CERTIFIED products. These tests are conducted at an independent laboratory. Thanks to the Wi-Fi Alliance, you don't have to read the fine print or study technical manuals: just look for the Wi-Fi CERTIFIED logo and color-coded Standard Indicator Icons to match interoperable products.

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Wi-Fi Connects You

Imagine working on your laptop or checking e-mail from anywhere in your home. Imagine being able to connect to your office network from an airport or coffee shop. Imagine retrieving files or presentations from the corporate network, cruising the Internet or sending instant messages to co-workers—and doing it all from a conference room or the company cafeteria.

Now, imagine doing all these things easily and quickly - without worrying about finding a wired network connection. That is Wi-Fi.

Imagine being able to move your entire office without losing your investment in networking installs, or to add new staff, all without moving cables or installing complicated hubs and routers. That is Wi-Fi.

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The Wi-Fi Technology

It's powerful. Wi-Fi networks use radio technologies called [IEEE 802.11b](#) or [802.11a](#) to provide secure.

It's powerful. Wi-Fi networks use radio technologies called [IEEE 802.11b](#) or [802.11a](#) to provide secure, reliable, fast wireless connectivity. A Wi-Fi network can be used to connect computers to each other, to the Internet, and to wired networks (which use IEEE 802.3 or [Ethernet](#)). Wi-Fi networks operate in the unlicensed 2.4 and 5 GHz radio bands, with an 11 Mbps (802.11b) or 54 Mbps (802.11a) data rate or with products that contain both bands (dual band), so they can provide real-world performance similar to the basic [10BaseT](#) wired Ethernet networks used in many offices.

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Who Can Use Wi-Fi?

Everyone can use Wi-Fi, almost everywhere in the world. Home Wi-Fi networks can connect multiple computers to each other, to peripherals, and to the Internet. A Wi-Fi network can connect a family's computers together to share such hardware and software resources as printers and the Internet. That means everyone in the family can share stored files, photos and documents and print them out on a single printer attached to one desktop computer—all without unsightly cables running throughout the home.

In a home or home office, using Wi-Fi CERTIFIED equipment in your wireless network gives you the ability to share a single high-speed broadband cable or DSL connection. A Wi-Fi network can easily be expanded to ten users or more.

It also gives you assurance that the Wi-Fi CERTIFIED equipment you purchase today will work with the equipment you add to your network in the future.

Wi-Fi networks also work well for small businesses, providing connectivity between mobile salespeople, floor staff and behind-the-scenes finance and accounting departments. Because small businesses are dynamic, the built-in flexibility of a Wi-Fi network makes it easy and affordable for them to change and grow.

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Using Enterprise-Level Wi-Fi Technology

Large corporations and campuses use enterprise-level technology and Wi-Fi CERTIFIED wireless products to extend standard wired Ethernet networks to public areas like meeting rooms, training classrooms and large auditoriums. Many corporations also provide wireless networks to their off-site and telecommuting workers to use at home or in remote offices. Large companies and campuses often use Wi-Fi to connect buildings.

Service providers and wireless ISPs are using Wi-Fi technology to distribute Internet connectivity within individual homes and businesses as well as apartments and commercial complexes.

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Wi-Fi Connects Travelers

Wi-Fi networks are also found in busy public places like coffee shops, hotels, airport lounges and other locations where large crowds gather. This may be the fastest-growing segment of Wi-Fi service, as more and more travelers and mobile professionals clamor for fast and secure Internet access wherever they are. Soon, Wi-Fi networks will be found in urban areas providing coverage throughout the central city, or even lining major highways, enabling travelers access anywhere they can pull over and stop.

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Extending Your Current Network with a Wi-Fi LAN

It's easy to add another wireless computer to a Wi-Fi network. There's no need to purchase or lay more cable or find an available Ethernet port on your hub or router. Just plug in your card or [USB](#) connection, turn on your computer and you're surfing the Net.

If your business grows and you need to move, you don't have to abandon your network infrastructure investment or hire a networking company to rewire the new location. And there's no network downtime—you can be up and running even before the furniture arrives. Simply plug the system into a power outlet and you'll be operational in minutes.

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