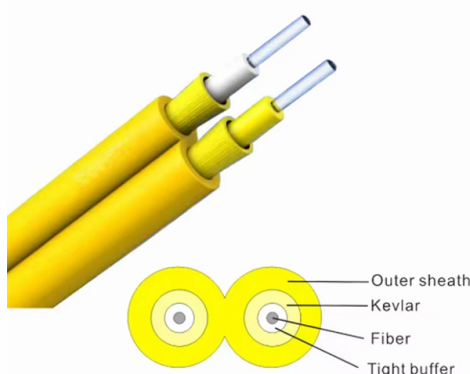


Is a gigabit router necessary for a 100Mbps fiber optic connection



Overview

For most remote work, including frequent video calls, a 100 Mbps fiber connection is perfectly suitable.

Key Takeaways

For a 100 Mbps fiber optic connection, a gigabit router is not strictly necessary for wired speeds, but it can improve wireless performance and future-proof your network.

Wired Connection Considerations

For a 100 Mbps fiber plan, your wired devices will not exceed 100 Mbps even if you use a gigabit router. The maximum speed is limited by the internet plan itself, so upgrading to a gigabit router will not increase the wired network speed beyond 100 Mbps. The key is that your router's WAN and LAN ports should at least support 100 Mbps, which most modern routers do, so a standard router is sufficient for basic wired connectivity.

Wireless Performance Benefits

While a gigabit router won't increase your wired speed, it can significantly improve wireless performance. Older routers with Wi-Fi 4 (802.11n) or Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac) may limit wireless speeds, especially if multiple devices are connected. A gigabit router with Wi-Fi 6 or 6E can provide faster, more stable wireless connections, better coverage, and improved handling of multiple devices.

Future-Proofing

Even if your current plan is 100 Mbps, a gigabit router can be a good investment for future upgrades. Fiber plans often scale to 1 Gbps or higher, and having a router capable of handling gigabit speeds ensures you won't need to replace it when you upgrade your service .

Key Recommendations

- Ensure your router has a WAN port compatible with fiber (usually Gigabit Ethernet).
- For wireless devices, consider a Wi-Fi 6 router to maximize speed and efficiency.
- For wired-only setups at 100 Mbps, a standard router with 100 Mbps ports is sufficient.
- If you plan to upgrade your internet in the future, a gigabit router is recommended to avoid bottlenecks. In summary, a gigabit router is not required to achieve full 100 Mbps speeds on a wired connection, but it can enhance wireless performance and provide future-proofing for higher-speed plans .

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