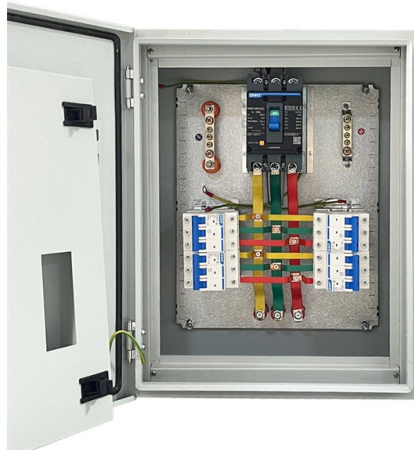


Routers running at full 100 Mbps fiber optic speeds



Overview

There are the things they forget to tell you about when getting a 1Gbps internet or fiber optic speed service.

Key Takeaways

To achieve full 100 Mbps fiber optic speeds, you need a router that supports at least 1 Gbps wired connections and modern Wi-Fi standards like Wi-Fi 5 (AC) or Wi-Fi 6 (AX). Key Considerations for Fiber-Ready Routers

Wired vs Wireless: For maximum fiber speeds, a wired Ethernet connection is ideal, as Wi-Fi can be affected by distance, walls, and interference. Routers with gigabit LAN ports ensure you can reach full 100 Mbps speeds without bottlenecks. Wi-Fi Standards:

- Wi-Fi 4 (802.11n): Theoretical max ~600 Mbps, often slower in practice.
- Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac): Supports gigabit speeds, suitable for 100 Mbps fiber.



- **Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax):** Offers higher efficiency, better multi-device performance, and future-proofing . **Coverage and Devices:** Choose a router with sufficient range and dual- or tri-band support to handle multiple devices simultaneously. Features like MU-MIMO and OFDMA improve performance in busy networks . **LAN Ports:** At least 4 gigabit Ethernet ports are recommended for stable wired connections to computers, gaming consoles, or smart TVs .

Recommended Routers

- **TP-Link AX1800 Archer AX21** – Wi-Fi 6, dual-band, 1.8 Gbps total speed, supports multiple devices with OFDMA and MU-MIMO, includes Beamforming for extended coverage .
- **NETGEAR Nighthawk RAX43** – Wi-Fi 6, tri-band, gigabit LAN ports, optimized for fiber connections, suitable for gaming and streaming .
- **NETGEAR C7000-100NAS** – Combines cable modem and router, dual-band Wi-Fi up to 1900 Mbps, four gigabit Ethernet ports, strong security features, ideal for medium-sized homes .
- **NETGEAR Nighthawk Tri-Band WiFi 7 Router (RS700S)** – Wi-Fi 7, ultra-fast speeds up to 1,900 Mbps, supports up to 150 devices, excellent for high-bandwidth activities like 4K/8K streaming and gaming .

Tips for Optimal Performance

- Use Ethernet for critical devices to ensure full 100 Mbps speeds.
- Place the router centrally to minimize signal loss.
- Update firmware regularly to maintain security and performance.
- Consider mesh systems if you have a large home to avoid dead zones. By selecting a router with gigabit ports, modern Wi-Fi standards, and sufficient coverage, you can fully utilize your 100 Mbps fiber optic connection for both wired and wireless devices .

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