

802.11



Office networks without cables

Replace ugly cables with invisible radio waves that zip across halls, even through walls, and connect your computer network.
802.11 is also known as Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity).

Wireless adapters in your computers connect over radio waves to wireless routers or access-points.

An area within which your devices can connect to an access-point is known as a 'wireless hotspot.'

A wireless access-point is a small device that acts as a translator between your wireless devices and the wired network.

Wireless networking gear is available for various 802.11 standards such as 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g.

Networks of the 802.11a standard can handle a maximum throughput of 54 Mbps. They work on the regulated 5 GHz range without interference from other appliances. They are ideal for an office network where high speed is required. 64 clients can simultaneously connect to a single access-point.

A 802.11b network allows only 32 users to be connected to an access point. It works at a lower maximum speed of 11 Mbps, and is ideal for home and small office networks. It has a good signal range and allows communication across barriers more effectively than 802.11a networks. However, it works on the unregulated 2.4 GHz range and is prone to interference from household appliances like microwave ovens and cordless phones. 802.11b devices cost less than those made for the 802.11a standard.

802.11g networks are a balance between 802.11a and 802.11b networks. They work in the 2.4 GHz range, and have a maximum throughput of 54 Mbps. 64 users can be connected to an access point. 802.11g devices are less expensive than 802.11a, and more expensive than 802.11b. 802.11g access points are backward-compatible with 802.11b clients.

The effective speed of networks working on each of these standards is only around 50 per cent of the rated maximum speed.

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