

Everything you need to know about Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is much easier to set up and use than it was a decade ago, but it can still trip up even experienced tech people. I've written quite a lot about Wi-Fi, and now I've gathered all my best information for your convenience.

If you need to buy new equipment, set it up, secure it, tweak it or anything else, you've come to the right place.

[Buying a home network router](#) - The router is the nerve center of a home network, so you need a good one. I'll tell you what features you need and what you can avoid. That way, you get the best router without breaking the bank.

[Securing your home wireless network](#) - It doesn't take much to get online once you have your router. However, if you don't set up your network properly, you'll leave it open to snooping neighbors, hackers and other criminals.

At best, this will slow down your network and strain your Internet connection. At worst, you could be wrongfully accused of criminal activity and face serious legal trouble.

When you secure your router, don't forget to create a strong password. [Click here to learn an easy method.](#)

[Detect snoops on your network](#) - You're worried that a neighbor or someone else could be logging in to your network, but how do you tell? This program gives you fast information on what gadgets are connected to the network. Check it periodically to catch any unauthorized users and lock them out

[Create a safe, unique SSID](#) - The name of your network, or SSID, shows up on every Wi-Fi-enabled gadget in the area. You want a name that's unique, but doesn't give away too much information.

You'd be surprised how hard that can be. I cover the dos and don'ts for choosing an SSID, including some dangers you might not even consider.

[Create a Wi-Fi network for guests](#) - Letting friends and relatives connect to your main network is nice, but not always a good idea. It means exposing your gadgets and revealing your Wi-Fi password.

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Kim Komando hosts the nation's largest talk radio show about consumer electronics, computers and the Internet. To get the podcast or find the station nearest you, visit: <http://www.komando.com/listen>. To subscribe to Kim's free e-mail newsletters, sign-up at: <http://www.komando.com/newsletters>.

[Boost your Wi-Fi signal](#) - A weak or spotty Wi-Fi signal is a serious frustration. You don't have to suffer with it!

I've rounded up 5 simple tricks you have to try. With very little effort, you can have strong Wi-Fi in every part of your house.

[Speed up your Wi-Fi network](#) - Does your wireless network seem sluggish? There are some tricks you can use to boost the speed.

You don't need a computer engineering degree, though. You don't even need to open your router up. Just tweak these settings and you'll see a difference.

[Find free Wi-Fi on the go](#) - Wi-Fi isn't just for the home. Coffee shops, truck stops, airports and other establishments can offer it, sometimes for free.

This roundup of Wi-Fi finders gives you the best hotspot locations near you. Here's a bonus tip: [Using Wi-Fi on the go is a great way to avoid cellular data overages on your smartphone or tablet.](#)

[Protect yourself on public Wi-Fi](#) - When you use a public hot spot, you might be opening your gadget up to hackers and snoops. Fortunately, you can protect your gadgets and information with very little effort.

Follow these 5 tips and you'll have all the benefits of public Wi-Fi without the dangers.

If you still love your wired network, I can help you set that up, too. Here are a few ways to make the most out of wired Internet.

- Wired Internet can tap into all sorts of lightning-fast speeds. [Learn how to upgrade your network for faster speeds.](#)
- The right cable for your wired network goes a long way. [Find out which Ethernet cable your wired network should have.](#)
- Some gadgets will still work better on a wireless connection. [I'll tell you which ones in this must-read home networking tip.](#)

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