



WiFi Basics

What is “WiFi”?

Your WiFi network connects devices in your home or business to the internet and each other without using physical wires. The devices on the network connect wirelessly to a WiFi router and together they form a wireless local area network (WLAN). The WiFi router is connected to the internet source via a broadband modem (with Elevate, the modem and WiFi router are one piece of equipment). The internet is a wide area network (WAN) that connects computers from around the world. When it comes to your WiFi, you can control whether it is on or off and the speed you pay for. Your WiFi network and the internet have a symbiotic relationship. If your WiFi router isn't working optimally, then your internet service won't perform as well as it could. Conversely, if your demand for bandwidth exceeds the speed you pay for, even the strongest WiFi signal wouldn't be able to support all of the devices you connect to it.

Wired vs. wireless network

Devices connected to a network can access the internet, work together, and share information. A wired network connects devices together using Ethernet cables. This places restrictions on where you can take your devices. Wired networks are often used when there are work stations and other internet-connected devices that do not move. A wireless network connects devices without using physical wires. Instead, WiFi connects devices using radio waves. Many devices use wireless technology and it allows you to move freely with your device and connect to the internet as long as there is an adequate signal. Both wired and wireless networks allow you to control security restrictions and which devices can access others.

Get the most from your WiFi network: 2.4 GHz vs. 5 GHz

When connecting to your Elevate WiFi you may see two different SSID connections, often labeled networks, one ending in “2.4 GHz” and the second in “5 GHz.” When available as an option on your device, it is recommended to connect to the 5 GHz SSID as it will provide a faster connection. The 2.4 GHz band can travel farther than the 5 GHz band, but it cannot offer the high speed capabilities of 5 GHz. In addition, the 2.4 GHz band may be crowded with household devices such as baby monitors, microwaves etc. It's also important to remember that some devices can only pick up the 2.4 GHz band. This could be due to the age of the device, for example older smart phones, or simply the capabilities of the device.

Limits to WiFi connectivity

Each wireless device connects to your network using its own wireless network adapter. Some adapters are faster than others. For example, your tablet's wireless network adapter might only be able to go 30 Mbps. Your laptop might only be able to go 75 Mbps. If you subscribe to Elevate's 100 Mbps internet, these devices will not be able to go 100 Mbps. Typically, the newer the device, the faster its WiFi adapter can go. Some earlier devices are not built to handle greater speeds.

Direct Wired Connection



2.4 GHz. Wireless



5 GHz. Wireless



Questions? Call us at 877-687-3632