



# Consumer-grade vs. Carrier-class Mesh Wi-Fi: Which option is right for you?

When it comes to home Wi-Fi, the most important thing is that it works—so you never have to think about it. Unfortunately, with many home Wi-Fi networks this is not always the case. Poor connectivity, slow speeds and dropped connections are all too common.

There are some steps you can take to improve Wi-Fi performance in your home, however, such as moving your router to a different location, making sure its settings are optimized, or even upgrading to a newer model. But when these actions don't result in any noticeable improvement, it may be time to consider a different type of Wi-Fi solution.

## **Enjoy a superior experience with Mesh Wi-Fi**

Fortunately, there is an exciting new alternative to conventional home Wi-Fi networks. Called a Mesh Wi-Fi network, this new technology combines a Wi-Fi router with one or more satellites, which are small wireless devices you place in different rooms in your home. These satellites communicate with the router and provide you with a strong Wi-Fi signal everywhere, whether it's your bedroom, your home office, or even your backyard.

## **Consumer-grade Mesh Wi-Fi: convenient but expensive**

Once you've decided a Mesh Wi-Fi system is for you, there are two options for making the jump. The first is to pay a visit to the nearest consumer electronics store and purchase your own Mesh Wi-Fi system. These systems typically consist of a router and one, or sometimes two, satellites.





While this may seem like the simplest option, there are a couple of major drawbacks. The biggest one is price. Consumer Mesh Wi-Fi systems are expensive. While you can purchase some starter systems for around \$300, others can cost upwards of \$500, depending on the number of additional satellites you need to extend coverage throughout your home.

Along with the high price tag, you are responsible for installing the system and managing it on an ongoing basis. This may or may not be a problem, depending on your comfort level with technology, but there is a chance that you will encounter problems in the future that you're not able to fix on your own.

Another major drawback of consumer Mesh Wi-Fi systems is that they don't support certain key features, like IPTV. So, if you have a consumer Wi-Fi system and your service provider offers an IPTV service, you will have to purchase your TV service from another provider, which will end up costing you more.

#### **Carrier-class Mesh Wi-Fi: worry-free and cost-effective**

The second option is to purchase your Mesh Wi-Fi as a service from your service provider. Instead of paying several hundred dollars up front for a consumer-grade system you have to install and manage by yourself, you can instead pay a small monthly fee, get the best Mesh Wi-Fi system available—with superior performance and coverage—and rely on your service provider to take care of any technical issues that may come up.

With a managed solution like this, your service provider has complete visibility into all the devices in your network. They can access your network remotely, then quickly identify and resolve any issues you may have, so you don't experience any downtime.

Carrier-class Wi-Fi also provides more flexibility than consumer systems, which require you to buy satellite units in groups of two or three. If you only need one satellite in your home, this means you have to pay for a minimum of two, which means you have to pay for something you don't need.

With carrier-class Mesh Wi-Fi, you can order up to four satellites along with your Wi-Fi router. If you only need one to provide coverage throughout your home, then there's no need to pay for more.

#### **Contact your service provider**

If you're ready to enjoy the superior online experience and other benefits that come with Carrier-Class Wi-Fi, contact your service provider. They'll give you everything you need to upgrade your current Wi-Fi network to a high-performance Mesh Wi-Fi system, and provide you the support you need—so you can enjoy worry-free Wi-Fi that just works.