## I'm not a robot



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Whether youre looking to get more performance out of your home network, extend your range or support more devices at the same time, investing in one of the best Wi-Fi routers will make your life easier. To determine which Wi-Fi routers at the same time, investing in one of the best will make your life easier. To determine which will not be a support with the property of the property will not be a support will not be a su
multiple distances to measure both speed and range. Plus, we evaluate how well each router can move data through walls and benchmarking, the best Wi-Fi router overall is the Asus RT-BE96U. It uses the latest Wi-Fi standard for the fastest possible speeds and lowest latency.
while delivering blazing throughput in our tests with a range of over 100 feet. If youre on a budget, the TP-Link Archer AX55 is a great value pick, offering strong speeds over Wi-Fi 6 for under $100. There are lots of other great Wi-Fi routers we recommend for different use cases based on our reviews, including mesh systems for complete home
coverage and gaming routers for the smoothest performance. These are the best Wi-Fi routers you can buy right now. Click to view more options... Why you can trust Tom's GuideOur writers and editors spend hours analyze, and
rate.Best Wi-Fi router overallImage 1 of 3(Image credit: Tom's Guide)(Image credit: Tom's Guide)(Image
its AiProtection security software free of charge which is based on Trend Micros antivirus software. Don't buy it if your einternet speeds are less than a gigabit. Price is a big concern: At $700 the Asus RT-BE96U is on the expensive side. If your eon a budget just wait as
cheaper Wi-Fi 7 routers are coming. The Asus RT-BE96U is a blazing fast Wi-Fi 7 router that checks all the boxes, though it is on the expensive side at $699. For the price though, you're getting a tri-band router with built-in security software and excellent range. The Asus RT-BE96U has eight antennas at the top which can be rotated or angled for a
better signal. The device itself sports a sleek, all-black design with a subtle "7" on the top to let you know this is a Wi-Fi 7 router after all. One reason you might consider spending a bit more on the Asus RT-BE96U is for its excellent speeds. During our testing, this router delivered 1.948 Gbps at 15 feet and it was able to hold a connection even when
our test laptop was 105 feet away. There are plenty of ports at the back including several multi-gig ones. With the Asus RT-BE96U, you get a 10 Gbps and a gigabit WAN, a 10 Gbps and a gigabit Ethernet ports plus two USB 3.0 ports for moving data across your network from a flash drive or external hard drive. If you have a need for speed
and want a reliable router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U is currently your best option. Read our full Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years to come, the Asus RT-BE96U review. Best budget Wi-Fi router you can use for years you 
the fact thats often on sale, the TP-Link Archer AX55 is a very affordable Wi-Fi 6 router. You want a small, compact router: At 10.2 x 5.2 x 1.5-inches, the Archer AX55 is quite small for a Wi-Fi 6 router and wont take up too much space in your home. Don't buy it if You have a larger home or apartment: The Archer AX55 did well at short distances in our
speed tests but fell off at mid-distances making it a less than ideal choice for larger spaces. You want the latest wireless tech: This is a Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 6 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6 router and doesnt come with the faster 8 GHz band available with Wi-Fi 6
over $100. For the price, you're getting a small and easy to hide Wi-Fi 6 router with excellent range, lots of setup options and a 2-year warranty. The TP-Link Archer AX55 is a dual-band router with four antennas that can also be repositioned for a better signal. During our testing, the TP-Link Archer AX55 was able to reach speeds of 823.7 Mbps at a
distance of 15 feet and it had an overall range of 110 feet. On the back, you'll find a single gigabit WAN port along with four gigabit LAN ports as well as a USB 3.0 port for moving data across your network. The TP-Link Archer AX55 has an all-black design with some cutouts at the top and soft rubber feet on the bottom. If you're after a quick, easy
and inexpensive upgrade for your home network, the TP-Link Archer AX55 will more than do the trick. Read our full TP-Link Archer AX55 review. Best Wi-Fi mesh systemImage 1 of 3(Image credit: Tom's Guide)(Image 
with multi-gigabit internet plans as the main router has a 10 Gbps input port while the satellites each have four 2.5 Gbps output ports. You have a huge house: Each Orbi 870 device has a range of 3,000 square feet and a three-pack can cover up to 9,000 square feet. Don't buy it if: You're on a budget: At $1,300 for a three-pack, this mesh Wi-Fi system
carries a premium price like the rest of Netgear Orbi lineup. You want free tech support. Netgear Orbi 870 is one of the best mesh Wi-Fi systems you can get right now. While it isnt as fully featured as our previous top mesh router, the Orbi 970, it is smaller and
more affordable, though it still carries a premium price. If you have the money, a multi-gig internet plan and a large house, this is probably the mesh system for you. The Orbi 870 can cover up to 9,000 square feet with a three-pack but a two-pack can cover 6,000 square feet, this Wi-Fi 7-powered mesh system delivered 1.82
Gbps of throughput which isnt far off from the 2 Gbps high mark set by its larger and significantly more expensive sibling the Orbi 970. Each unit has 8 high-performance antennas for 360 degree Wi-Fi coverage and four 2.5 Gbps Ethernet ports. However, the main unit which serves as the router also comes equipped with a 10 Gbps input port. Unlike
the Orbi 970 though, this mesh Wi-Fi system is a tri-band one which gives you access to the 2.5, 5 and 6-Ghz bands. There isnt another additional band for wireless backhaul between the router and the satellites but this does help keep the cost down with the Orbi 870. During testing, one of the things that impressed Brian Nadel who reviewed this
mesh Wi-Fi system was how well it handled medium to long distances where many other mesh routers suffer a steep performance drop. The Orbi 870 maintained excellent speeds and performance that Netgears Orbi devices are known for
but dont want to pay top dollar for its flagship mesh kit, the Orbi 870 is the perfect compromise. Read our full Netgear Orbi 870 review. Best budget mesh systemImage 1 of 3(Image credit: TP-Link)(Image cre
want an affordable mesh router that performs well. You want something small and easy to hide: At 4.3 x 4.5 inches, the Deco X20 units are smaller than other mesh routers. Don't buy it if You need a lot of wired devices. You want a
dedicated back channel for data: Other mesh routers have a dedicated band just for the units to communicate with one another which frees up bandwidth for your devices. The TP-Link Deco X20 is an inexpensive mesh Wi-Fi system that's relatively small and very easy to set up. In fact, during our testing, we were able to get it up and running in 15
minutes or so using the company's Deco app which also allows you to enable parental controls and comes with built-in security. For just $200, you can cover up to 5,800 square feet with a strong Wi-Fi 6 signal. Unlike with other mesh routers, all of the Deco X20 units are interchangeable and serve as either a router or a satellite. Each one has two
gigabit Ethernet ports at the rear but there aren't any USB ports for sharing data from a flash drive across your network. In our testing, the Deco X20 achieved download speeds of 622 Mbps at 15 feet with a total overall range of 95 feet. If you're looking for a budget mesh Wi-Fi system with units that are easy to tuck away on a bookshelf or place on a
countertop, the Deco X20 delivers quite a lot of value for the price. Read our full TP-Link Deco X20 review. Best Wi-Fi router for gamers Image 1 of 3(Image credit: Tom's Guide)(Image credit: Tom's Guide) (Image credit: Tom's 
of the ports youll need to take advantage of its faster speeds. You have multi-gig internet: With two 10 Gbps WAN/LAN ports and a SFP+ port that can be combined with one of them for fiber internet, this router is best paired with a high-speed, multi-gig internet plan to reach its full potential. Don't buy it ifYoure short on space: At 11.5 x 9.0 x 7.4
inches, this is a larger router and with the wings on either side and RGB lighting, youre going to want to have it out in the open and not tucked away somewhere. You want a device that runs cool: In our testing, the underside of this one reached 138.0 degree Fahrenheit while the space between its wings was still hot at 120.1 degrees. The TP-Link
Archer GE800 is a Wi-Fi 7-powered gaming router with low latency, excellent speeds, a dedicated gaming port and a very futuristic design complete with RGB lighting effects. At 11.5 x 9.0 x 7.4 inches, it is on the larger side to accommodate its wings which house its eight antennas. The Archer GE800 leverages 320 MHz data channels, 4K QAM
modulation and other Wi-Fi 7-specific features to deliver both excellent wireless and wired speeds. In our testing, it delivered speeds of up to 1.322 Gbps at a distance of 15 feet and had a total range of 105 feet. This next-gen gaming router is ready for multi-gig internet with four 2.5 Gbps Ethernet ports, two 10 Gbps ones and even an SFP+ optical
link for fiber connections. Theres also a USB 3.0 port for moving data across your network. The Archer GE800s gaming features are front and center with a dedicated Game Mode button next to a button to control the routers RGB lighting effects. Through the companys Tether app or in your browser, you can enable all sorts of dedicated gaming
features. From a Game Detector that tests your real-time ping for individual games to game port forwarding, theres a lot to tweak for the best online gaming experience. The Archer GE800 combines Wi-Fi 7 performance with just about everything a gamer would want from one of the best gaming routers. Read our full TP-Link Archer GE800
review. Best budget gaming routerImage 1 of 3(Image credit: Tom's Guide)(Image credit: Tom's Guide)(Image credit: Tom's Guide)Buy it if Youre on a tight budget: At under $150, the Reyee RG-E6 is a very affordable gaming router plan.
youll have more than enough bandwidth for all your devices. Don't buy it if You want the latest Wi-Fi 6 router, you wont have access to the faster 6 GHz band found in Wi-Fi 6E and most Wi-Fi 7 routers. Plus youll miss out on other new features. You need fast wired connections: The Reyee RG-E6 has a 2.5G input port but all of its
downstream Ethernet ports are limited to gigabit speeds. The Reyee RG-E6 is a Wi-Fi 6-powered gaming router that wont break the bank but still comes with plenty of features and of course, a dedicated gaming port. While it might not have built-in RGB lighting, it does sport a futuristic design that will complement any game room or battlestation. At
just $150, the Reyee RG-E6 will leave you with plenty of room in your budget for new games and peripherals. Although its priced like a budget router, the Reyee RG-E6 pushes Wi-Fi 6 to its limit while its eight high-powered antennas offer improved wall penetration and a stronger signal between rooms. At 10.2 x 10.2 x 6.2 inches, this gaming router is
on the larger side but these external antennas are one of the reasons behind its larger footprint. Even without the latest wireless tech on board, the Reyee RG-E6 still managed to reach speeds of 1.148 Gbps at a distance of 15 feet which isnt too far off the much more expensive Archer GE800s 1.322 Gbps. In our testing, it had a total range of 95 feet
but if you need even more coverage, you can easily build a mesh network around this gaming router. To do so, you just need some additional Reyee gear and with a push of the mesh button on the top of the device, this gaming router becomes the main device in a mesh network. One area where the Reyee RG-E6 does fall short is with extras. You don't
get built-in security software like you do with the GE800 and there isnt a USB port around back for sharing data across your home network. Still though, you do get a 2.5G input port for multi-gig internet and four downstream gigabit Ethernet ports for your wired devices. One of these is a dedicated gaming port designed to give you lower latency
home. You are missing out on the faster 6 GHz band you get with Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7 gaming routers but at this price, can you really complain. Read our full Reyee RG-E6 review. Best Wi-Fi 6eImage 1 of 3(Image credit: Netgear)(Image credit: Netgear)(Im
design, the Netgear RAXE500 doesnt look like your typical Wi-Fi router. You want a customizable router: Netgear makes it very easy to customize this router to your liking using either its app or your browser. Don't buy it if You dont have multi-gig internet: The 2.5 Gbps Ethernet port at the back of this router is better suited to faster, multi-gig
internet plans. You dont want to pay for security software: Unlike others, Netgear charges annually for its Armor security software. The Netgear Nighthawk RAXE500 was the first Wi-Fi 6e router to hit the market, and the results are mind-blowing. By adding the new 6-GHz band to the already impressive capabilities of Wi-Fi 6, the Nighthawk
RAXE500 delivers category-leading performance but at $599, it's not cheap. This tri-band device more than lives up to the hype by delivering 2.39 Gbps at 15 feet during our testing. Add this to the slick design and highly customizable configuration options, and the Netgear Nighthawk RAXE500 becomes one of the best wireless routers we've ever the network of the hype by delivering 2.39 Gbps at 15 feet during our testing.
reviewed. While its best at close quarters and is one of the more expensive routers, and other networking products. Use our promo codes to get discounts on Netgear coupon codes can help you save on premium Wi-Fi and networking products. Use our promo codes to get discounts on Netgear coupon codes can help you save on premium Wi-Fi and networking products.
open: As the Archer BE800 has a unique dot display that can show the time, weather and more, this is the kind of router youre going to want to have front and center instead of hiding it on a bookshelf. Don't buy it if Youre short on space: At 11.9 x 10.3 x 3.8-inches, this is a rather large and quite tall router that can be a bit bulkier when compared to
open, especially as its 2.4-inch, big dot display can show everything from the date and time to the weather and even custom animations. Besides its looks, the Archer BE800 is relatively affordable for a powerful, Wi-Fi 7 router at $599. However, if that's out of your budget, check out the cheaper Archer BE550 for just $300. There's also the more
expensive Archer BE900 with dual displays. At the back of the Archer BE800, you'll find two 10 gigabit Ethernet ports, four 2.5 gigabit ports and a USB 3.0 port. In our testing, the Archer BE800 was able to reach speeds of 1.8 Gbps at 15 feet with a maximum range of 115 feet. If you're tired of your boring old Wi-Fi router and want to upgrade to the
latest wireless standard, then the Archer BE800 just might be for you.Read our full Archer BE800 review.Best long-range credit: Tom's Guide)(Image credit: T
home devices: Netgear lets you create a separate network for your smart home devices with this mesh Wi-Fi system took 17 minutes for someone very
experienced with networking to set up. The Netgear Orbi RBK863SB is a tri-band, Wi-Fi 6 mesh router that builds on the company's Orbi RBK852 with improved performance and a brand new, all-black color scheme (it's also available in white) sold exclusively on its site. Also, by using an innovative new antenna design, it has even better mid-range
performance with download speeds that are four times faster than its predecessor at 50 feet. Like other Orbi devices though, you're paying a premium but for the price, you get excellent performance and plenty of ports. With a three-pack, the Orbi RBK863SB can cover up to 8,000 square feet with a strong Wi-Fi signal but there's also a four-pack that
covers 10,000 square feet perfect for very large homes. In our testing, the Orbi RBK863SB delivered speeds of 806 Mbps at 15 feet and each unit had a range of 105 feet. At the back of the main unit that serves as the router, you'll find a 10 Gigabit Ethernet port along with four gigabit Ethernet ports while the satellites only have these four gigabit
Ethernet ports. With your purchase, you also get access to Netgear's built-in Armor security software for free for one year but after that, it costs $100 annually. If you have a large home you need to fill with a strong Wi-Fi signal but don't want to pony up the extra cash for the Wi-Fi 7-equipped Orbi RBE973, the Orbi RBK863SB is a great option and
internet: With a 10 Gbps and a 2.5 Gbps Ethernet port, this mesh kit is ideal for those with faster internet plans. Don't buy it ifYoure on a budget: The eero Max 7 is eeros first Wi-Fi 7 mesh router and its flagship product, so its quite expensive at over $1,500 for a three-piece kit. You need the best Wi-Fi 7 performance possible: In our speed tests,
performance fell off quickly at a distance which is less than ideal for such an expensive mesh Wi-Fi system. The eero Max 7 is Amazon's first mesh Wi-Fi system with Wi-Fi system.
more ports at the back. There's also been a significant price increase with a three-pack selling for $1,700 but the best Wi-Fi 7 routers and especially mesh ones all compatible with one another which means you can
use your old eero mesh router to extend your network further. At the same time, you can also use an Echo Dot as a mesh extender when you need more range in a pinch. At the back of the eero Max 7, you'll find two, 10 gigabit Ethernet ports, two 2.5 gigabit Ethernet ports and a USB-C port for power. In our testing, the eero Max 7 delivered speeds of
1.781 Gbps at 15 feet and had a range of 95 feet. As always, we were impressed by how simple the set up procedure was and just how much we could do from the eero app, especially with an optional eero Plus subscription. Read our full eero Max 7 review. Router specs Swipe to scroll horizontally Wi-Fi Router Wi-Fi Wi-Fi Spec Ports Size (LWH) As us RT-
BE96UWi-Fi 7BE19000 2 x 10 Gbps WAN/LAN, 1 x SFP+ optical port, 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN, 1 x USB 3.011.5 x 9.0 x 7.4 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 6AX30001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites)10.6 x 5.8 x 1.5 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 7BE210001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites)10.6 x 5.8 x 1.5 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 7BE210001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites)10.6 x 5.8 x 1.5 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 7BE210001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites)10.6 x 5.8 x 1.5 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 7BE210001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites)10.6 x 5.8 x 1.5 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 7BE210001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites)10.6 x 5.8 x 1.5 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 7BE210001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites)10.6 x 5.8 x 1.5 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 7BE210001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites)10.6 x 5.8 x 1.5 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 7BE210001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites)10.6 x 5.8 x 1.5 inchesTP-Link Archer AX55Wi-Fi 7BE210001 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gbps LAN (satellites) 10.6 x 10 Gbps WAN and 4 2.5 Gbps LAN (router), 4 x 2.5 Gb
4.4 inchesTP-Link Deco X20Wi-Fi 6AX18001 x gigabit WAN, 1 x 2.5 Gbps WAN/LAN, 1 x gigabit LAN4.3 x 4.3 x 4.5 inchesTP-Link Archer GE800Wi-Fi 7BE190001 x 2.5 Gbps WAN, 4 x gigabit LAN10.2 x 10.2 x 6.2 inchesNetgear Nighthawk
RAXE300Wi-Fi 6EAXE110001 x gigabit WAN/LAN, 1 x 2.5 Gbps WAN/LAN, 4 x gigabit LAN, 2 x USB 3.012.0 x 8.6 x 7.3 inches TP-Link Archer BE800Wi-Fi 6EAXE110001 x gigabit WAN/LAN, 1 x 2.5 Gbps WAN, 4 x gigabit LAN10.0 x 7.5 x 2.8
inchesEero Max 7Wi-Fi 7BE43002 x 10 Gbps WAN/LAN, 2 x 2.5 Gbps WAN/LAN8.4 x 7.1 x 3.4 inchesTesting resultsMaybe youve noticed that your current Wi-Fi coverage feels slower than it used to, have been experiencing spotty reception, or maybe you just need something better equipped to handle the demands of the growing number of smart
home devices at your house. If youve been dealing with any of these issues, a new router should be able to fix these common problems. Its also worth upgrading to a new Wi-Fi 4 and Wi-Fi 5 respectively) router in your home, you should
definitely consider upgrading to something more current. Newer standards will not only provide faster connectivity but there are other benefits as well. For instance, your smartphone battery will last longer as a result of more efficient device management and your connected home gadgets will all feel much faster with these more capable
standards. The other big reason to upgrade your router is that youre tired of paying a monthly rental fee for a router from your ISP. Since average equipment rental fees cost anywhere from $10-15 each mount, a new router can pay for itself in just a short amount of time while providing you with better service and features. Just dont forget to pair it
with one of the best cable modems if you want to entirely free yourself from the extra costs that often come with broadband internet packages. How to choose the best Wi-Fi router for youWhen it comes to choosing the best wireless router for youWhen it comes to choose the best wireless router for your home or small business, its easy to get lost in the complex networking jargon and obscure technology
standards. However, all you really need to know is how to answer two key questions: What speed do you need for your internet service provider as well as the speeds supported
by your modem. For most people, a standard 802.11ac router will handle all but the highest performing plans, like Gigabit internet plans that arent available everywhere just yet. With average broadband speeds at around 100 Mbps, most wireless AC routers will be able to handle the job with ease. The latest technology for routers is called Wi-Fi 6 (aka
802.11ax) which is a faster standard thats better suited for households with a lot of smart home devices. There are many Wi-Fi 6 routers available today, though theres an even newer twist on this standard called Wi-Fi 6e that takes advantage of a newly opened part of the radio spectrum. Wi-Fi 6e-enabled devices, such as laptops and smartphones, are
generally offer 50 to 100 feet of range, so that it can easily cover the majority of apartments and smaller homes. If you have a house with 3,000 square feet or more of space, youll want to consider a mesh router instead which use multistory
 houses or in homes with dead spots where the Wi-Fi signal drops out.(Image credit: Future)Ports: Though wireless connectivity is the main thing you want from a Wi-Fi router, youll also want to think about wired connections. Ethernet offers faster connectivity for devices like game consoles and smart TVs that use more bandwidth and USB ports are
ac routers often sell for less than $100 for basic, dual-band models. More expensive modems range up to $300 but offer better coverage and faster speeds, while gaming routers have built-in optimization features and typically sell for more. Keeping up on more. Keeping up on more. We will find the content of the content o
everything happening in the networking world can be difficult, so check out our helpful guides on the latest technology, like What is a mesh Wi-Fi router, and do you need one? Or get the latest advice on how to fix your router's security problems, from simple steps to advanced protections. From router security to in-depth explanations of Wi-Fi 6 and
Wi-Fi 6e, we're always providing the latest info about the newest products and innovations. Regular router vs mesh router for a mesh Wi-Fi 6e, we're always providing the latest info about the newest products and innovations. Regular router or a mesh Wi-Fi router or a mesh Wi-Fi always providing the latest info about the newest products and innovations. Regular router vs mesh router for a mesh Wi-Fi router or a
system? There are pros and cons to both but the best one for you will largely depend on your homes layout, then a mesh router is most likely your best option. Unlike with a traditional Wi-Fi router, a mesh Wi-Fi system
is made up of several devices (typically two or three) and while one unit acts as your main router, the rest act as satellites. These satellites spread your Wi-Fi signal even further, giving you better coverage and eliminating dead spots. With a traditional router, you just have one device that plugs into your cable modem or your Optical Network Terminal
if you have fiber internet. It then broadcasts a Wi-Fi signal in an elliptical shape thats perpendicular to its antennas. You can extend your routers signal even further but do so, youll need a Wi-Fi extender. Some companies like TP-Link even sell Wi-Fi extenders that can turn a regular router into a mesh one. To keep things simple though, if you have Wi-
Fi dead spots or want to extend your home internet all the way out into the backyard, a mesh router is the better choice. Fortunately, theyve come down significantly in price over the years and you can now pick up a decent Wi-Fi 6-powered system for less than $200. Now if you live in an apartment or a smaller house, you might not need a mesh
router. Instead, you want to look for a Wi-Fi router with decent range and repositionable antennas you can adjust to tweak where its signal goes. The choice is yours but there is another option worth considering too. You can buy a single mesh router now and buy satellites later on. A mesh router will work as a traditional Wi-Fi router on its own and its
coverage is good enough for you, theres nothing to worry about but at least you have a backup plan if you do notice Wi-Fi was a thing, youd often see routers tucked under desks or hidden away out of sight. Since they were used solely for wired
connections, this wasnt a problem at all. Now though, since you have the option of using either a wired or wireless connection, router placement is more important than ever. In order to get the best Wi-Fi signal out of your router, it needs to be in a central location as opposed to in a closet, a basement or in your attic. Living rooms, dining rooms or
family rooms are all popular places to put your router but you will need to be close to where your cable or fiber connection comes into your house. If you go with a mesh router spread throughout your home. From here, you want your Wi-
Fi router to be elevated since its signal goes up and out. On top of a book shelf, a table, on a wall or even mounting brackets online but if you live in an apartment or rent your home, a tall bookshelf is probably your best bet. However, you dont want your router
so high up in case you need to unplug it to reset it. You can use one of the best smart plugs for this in a pinch though. The next thing you need to keep in mind is obstructions. Walls, large metal objects and big appliances like your refrigerator or stove can all introduce interference that can degrade your routers signal. This is why living rooms, dining
rooms and family rooms are all good options since theyre a fair distance away from any large appliances. Finally, if your routers current location isnt working, you can always move it somewhere else. If you do though, make sure to use one of the best speed tests apps and run several tests to see if moving it actually made a difference. If it didnt, it
might be time to upgrade either your router or your current internet plan. How we test the best Wi-Fi routers (Image credit: Future) We test every router we review to measure performance and features. Throughput describes how much data the router can move more to evaluate the ease-of-setup and quality of settings and features. Throughput describes how much data the router can move more than the router of the contract of the co
back and forth over its wireless connection. Higher throughput will serve you better in data-heavy uses, like streaming video, gaming, or connecting multiple users at once. We measure throughput using Keysight IxChariot, first at a 15-foot distance without obstructions, so that we can gauge the maximum amount of data that the router can move. We
then measure how much data the router can move at 50, 75 and 100 feet, so that you can also choose the best model for smaller homes and apartments, where short-range performance may be the priority. We also test performance through walls and ceilings, to determine how well a router can provide signal in the Wi-Fi-dampening conditions
common to many buildings and homes. For mesh routers, we perform additional testing to determine how well the mesh system does sending a signal through both the main router and through a satellite unit. Following out through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the main router and through a satellite unit. Following out through both the main router and through a satellite unit. Following out through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the main router and through a satellite unit. Following out through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the main router and through a satellite unit. Following out through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the main router and through a satellite unit. Following out through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the main router and through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both the mesh system does sending a signal through both t
and tablets and stream a number of games, TV shows and movies simultaneously to see how well the router performs under strain. For more information on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices, check out our guide on how we test networking devices.
by Check out all of our home networking coverage: Best Wi-Fi 6 routers | Best wi-Fi 6 route
BE92U for $249: After a simple setup and a trouble-free week of speedy, stable internet across the 2.4-, 5-, and 6-GHz bands, I can recommend this router. It has Wi-Fi 7 benefits like MLO and 320-MHz channels, support for a guest network, VPN services, free security software, and parental controls. It also boasts a 10-Gbps WAN/LAN, a 2.5-Gbps
WAN/LAN, three 2.5-Gbps LANs, and a USB 3.2 port. This tri-band Wi-Fi 7 router came perilously close to claiming the midrange spot above from Netgears Nighthawk RS300, but was a smidge slower on the 5-GHz and 6-GHz bands and had a considerably shorter range. However, if your home is around 1,500 square feet and youd rather avoid a
subscription, the RT-BE92U is an excellent alternative. Customer reviews suggest some folks have had trouble with this router. Slip a SIM in there, and it connects to 4G or 5G networks to deliver Wi-Fi to your devices. Its a dual-band Wi-
Fi 6 router thats speedy on the 5-GHz band. The M3 had no trouble handling multiple connected devices (up to 32) and served a stable internet connection for around 10 hours. You can charge via the USB-C port, and theres a 2.4-inch LCD color screen for configuration. Its a solid hot spot for business or personal travel. Sadly, the M3 doesnt seem to
be available in the US, but folks in the UK can save some money and snag this instead of the M6 Pro above. Acer Connect Enduro M3 for $355: You can snag this mobile 5G router with a virtual SIM preloaded with data or stick your own SIM card in. Theres a 2.4-inch touchscreen, a fairly big 6,500-mAh battery, and a durable design that can survive
bumps and drops. It works as a dual-band Wi-Fi 6 router for up to 16 devices, though I found it got hot with a lot of devices connected. It supports a good range of 4G and 5G bands, so it should work with networks in many countries, making it a solid travel companion. AVM FRITZ! Box 5690 Pro for 356: While AVM has dominated the German router
market for years and still has around a 50 percent market share, it's now expanding across Europe and the UK, so I tested the FRITZ!Box 5690 Pro. AVMs range is distinctive in white and red plastic, but there's a focus on functionality. This tri-band Wi-Fi 7 router boasts a 2.5-Gbps WAN/LAN, four gigabit LAN, and a USB 3.1 port. Its fast, scoring mid
to high-table results in my tests, and it proved reliable. It also has DSL or fiber-optic modems, an integrated DECT base station for cordless phones, built-in storage (NAS), and support for Zigbee to connect smart home devices. You don't need an account to set it up or configure it. Theres a firewall and quest network option in the straightforward web
interface (you can use the mobile app if you prefer). AVMs routers are developed and manufactured in Europe, making them an interesting, privacy-focused alternative to routers from China or the UK and Europe looking to upgrade to Wi-Fi
7 should consider this router. My fingers are crossed that AVM expands into the US next.TP-Link Archer BE3600 for $100: This is the lowest price Ive seen for a Wi-Fi 7 router. The basic design sports four antennas, a 2.5-Gbps WAN, a 2.5-Gbps LAN, and three Gigabit LAN ports. It is dual-band (2.4-GHz and 5-GHz), so theres no 6-GHz option, and its
only 2 x 2 MIMO, so the maximum bandwidth is 688 Mbps and 2,882 Mbps, respectively. Sadly, I found the range on the 5-GHz band to be limited, and the band steering was disappointing, often dropping my phone onto the much slower 2.4-GHz band to be limited, and the band steering was disappointing, often dropping my phone onto the much slower 2.4-GHz band to be limited, and the band steering was disappointing, often dropping my phone onto the much slower 2.4-GHz band to be limited, and the band steering was disappointing, often dropping my phone onto the much slower 2.4-GHz band to be limited, and the band steering was disappointing, often dropping my phone onto the much slower 2.4-GHz band to be limited, and the band steering was disappointing, often dropping my phone onto the much slower 2.4-GHz band to be limited, and the band steering was disappointing.
our top pick in every test. It could be perfect for a small apartment, as it was impressively speedy at close range on both bands, but dropped off quickly with distance, making it tough to recommend for larger properties. The subscription required for enhanced security and parental controls is also a hard sell on a router this cheap. Asus RT-BE86U for
$300: The new Wi-Fi 7 version of the Asus RT-BE88U below. It lacks the 6-GHz band but brings all the other improvements that Wi-Fi 7 offers, from MLO to better security. The RT-BE86U proved reliable in my tests and performed extremely well on the 5-GHz band,
matching the slightly more expensive RT-BE88U. It is slightly smaller but still has one 10-Gbps and four 2.5-Gbps Ethernet ports, alongside a USB 3.0 port. It also offers all the usual benefits of an Asus router, including onboard security, parental controls, AiMesh and VPN support, and a host of configuration options. Its perhaps a little
pricey at the moment, but when this router starts to drop, it will be a solid choice for many homes and may well claim a place above. The angled design with customizable RGB lighting screams Vaders castle but also
provides room for antennas to ensure extremely fast performance across the board. You also get a 10-Gbps and four 2.5-Gbps Ethernet LAN ports, and a USB 3.0 port. The Tether app is solid, with some gaming-specific options, but separate subscriptions are required for extra security
and parental controls. Despite the blazing fast results, the GE800 couldnt quite match our top Wi-Fi 7 gaming pick above on the 6-GHz band, and it produced quite a lot of heat and audible fan noise, though it is significantly cheaper. Firewalla Gold SE for $479: This quirky portable device is perfect for people who worry about security and privacy. It
offers comprehensive tools for monitoring all traffic in and out of your house, robust and detailed parental controls, ad-blocking, and enhanced security with a built-in firewall and VPN option. It serves as a router, but you will want to pair another router in access point mode for Wi-Fi in your home. Its expensive and may prove intimidating for
inexperienced folks, but it offers deep insight into your network and an impressive depth of security features without an additional subscription. The Gold SE has two 2.5-Gbps ports and two gigabit, try the more affordable but slightly less capable
galore (two 10 Gbps, four 2.5 Gbps, four 2.5 Gbps, four Gigabit, and one USB 3.0). It outperformed several more expensive routers on the 5-GHz band, and thats likely what most of your devices are using most of the time right now. Asus also offers free security software and parental controls with its routers, so theres no need for subscriptions. But when I consider
that you can snag the Netgear Nighthawk RS300 listed above for less, I find it tough to recommend this router to folks in the US. If the 6-GHz band is unavailable or nerfed in your country, the RT-BE88U is for you. TP-Link Travel Router AX1500 for $50: If you don't want to spend much on a travel router, this is a good alternative to our pick above and
less than half the price. The catch is that you can expect around half the performance. If you just need to cover a hotel room, its fine, but the USB 2.0 port limits the effectiveness of using your phones cellular connection, and the 2.4-GHz band is only Wi-Fi 4. It does have two Gigabit ports, some handy modes, and VPN support. I also love that it is
powered via USB-C, as it affords some versatility (you could even use a fast portable charger). Netgear Nighthawk RS700 for $500: Although I had setup issues that required a factory reset, theres no hiding the top-notch performance of this router. Its a Wi-Fi 7 tri-band router with two 10-Gbps Ethernet ports, four gigabit ports, and a USB 3.2. The
 tower design is new for the Nighthawk line, and it looks great. This router will blend in far better than our bulky Wi-Fi 7 pick above from Asus, and it was slightly faster on the 6-GHz band, though not the 5-GHz bands. It mainly misses out on a recommendation because it is more expensive. Were already seeing discounts on the RT-BE96U
and Asus offers free security software and parental controls. If you get the Nighthawk RS700S, the S at the end denotes a free year of Netgear Armor, which costs $100 a year thereafter. If you need parental controls, thats another $70 a year. TP-Link Archer GX90 AX6600 for $200: Picks above too expensive? The slightly more affordable TP-Link
Archer GX90 (8/10, WIRED Recommends) might tempt you. It looks like a Sith spider, but this gaming-focused behemoth is feature-packed. It's easy to set up and configure, and it boasts a game accelerator feature and prioritization, making it easy to reserve bandwidth for gaming. I had no issues with multiple simultaneous gaming sessions. It has a
2.5-Gbps WAN/LAN port, a gigabit WAN/LAN port, three gigabit LAN ports, and two USB ports (3.0 and 2.0). Sadly, full parental controls and enhanced security require subscriptions, and it is a Wi-Fi 6 router. Aircove ExpressVPN Router for $190: This router has a built-in VPN service, allowing you to shield your network traffic from prying eyes. You
do have to buy a subscription to ExpressVPN separately (its $13 per month, or just over $8 if you pay annually). But setup is simple, and having a VPN at the router level is much easier than having to install it on each device (though several of our picks above can do this too). Its worth noting that ExpressVPN doesn't make our Best VPNs guide
because it was sold to a parent company with a less-than-sterling reputation; that might matter to you if youre the kind of person who wants a VPN. I also ran into a few issues with websites and streaming services that arent keen on VPNs. Photograph: Simon HillVodafone Pro II from 37 a month: Folks in the UK looking for a new internet service
provider (ISP) should check out Vodafones Pro II (8/10, WIRED Review). While ISPs have traditionally provided shoddy routers to their customers, that seems to be changing. The Vodafone Pro II is a tri-band router that supports Wi-Fi 6E, and it delivered lightning-fast speeds in my tests, on par with many of my picks above. The range is limited,
especially on the 6-GHz band, but this service comes with a range extender that appears as part of the same network. You can also get a 4G backup that connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet connects to Vodafones mobile network to keep you online should your regular internet which internet would your regular internet your 
Archer BE800 for $400: With a fresh design thats more desktop PC than router, the BE800 (8/10, WIRED Review) tri-band beast came out on top or close to it in my tests on the 2.4-GHz, and 6-GHz bands, proving impressively swift for file transfers and downloads. It also boasts speedy ports galore, a cool but kind of pointless customizable dot-
matrix LED screen, and the Tether app offers a guest network, IoT network, VPN server or client, EasyMesh, QoS for device prioritization, and remote management. This was our Wi-Fi 7 pick, but the Asus RT-BE96U beat it in my tests and does not require a subscription. TP-Links Security+ ($5/month, $36/year) and Advanced Parental Controls
($3/month, $18/year) bring full-featured parental controls and network security. Reyee RG-E6 for $140: This affordable gaming router from Reyee is a decent budget gaming pick that recorded some impressive test results. It is only a dual-band router, but with support for 160-MHz channels, the speeds on the 5-GHz band were very good. It has a 2.5-
Gbps WAN/LAN and three gigabit LANs, but no USB ports. Revees app offers prioritization for devices, ports, and basic parental controls. What it lacks is any security, and the app is poorly translated. But if that doesnt bother you, this is likely the best gaming router you can get for the money. TP-
Link Archer AXE75 for $150: While this tri-band router makes Wi-Fi 6E affordable, its performance was mixed. The 6-GHz band offers fast speeds at close range but drops off sharply with distance. I found the 5-GHz band offers fast speeds at close range but drops off sharply with distance. I found the 5-GHz band offers fast speeds at close range but drops off sharply with distance. I found the 5-GHz band somewhat inconsistent, recording zippy performance in most of my tests but relatively slow results on a few occasions. You also
need subscriptions if you want full-featured parental controls and network security, and all four Ethernet ports are limited to 1 Gbps. Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology WRX560 for $230: If you already have the Synology W
but once up and running, the WRX560 offers a strong and stable signal on the 2.4-GHz and 5-GHz bands. However, a dual-band Wi-Fi 6 router is a tough sell at this price, so if you just need one, its worth spending the extra $80 for the RT6600ax.Linksys Hydra Pro 6E for $280: One of the first Wi-Fi 6E tri-band routers (2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, and 6 GHz) to
hit the market, the price has dropped significantly since release. It proved easy to set up and has a very straightforward app, though it was often slow to load. It has a 5-Gbps WAN port and four gigabit LAN ports. The performance proved reliable, and its possible to get lightning-fast speeds at close range if you have a device that supports Wi-Fi 6E.
Coverage and speeds at mid and long range were average. There are free basic parental controls that enable you to block sites and schedule downtime, but only on a per-device basis (no profile creation or age restriction filters). You can split bands if you want to and prioritize three devices. There also a guest network option and easy Wi-Fi sharing.
Another positive is that this router works with any other Linksys Intelligent Mesh router (including the Velop mesh range). Linksys Hydra 6 for $98: Specs-wise, this compact router is similar to our top pick (TP-Link Archer AX55). Its a dual-band Wi-Fi 6 router works with any other Linksys Intelligent Mesh router (including the Velop mesh range).
Linksys app as the Pro 6E above, so you get free parental controls, quest network, prioritization, and band splitting. It proved speedy at close range and not bad at mid-range, but if your home is larger than 1,600 square feet, it may struggle. However, as an Intelligent Mesh router, it can mix and match with other Linksys routers or its Velop mesh
system. Linksys suggests a limit of 25 connected devices. Although it managed more than 40 without issues in my testing, busy households will likely want something more powerful. Routers We Dont Recommend for one reason or another. Photograph: Simon HillAcer Connect X6E 5G:
This is an interesting Wi-Fi 6E router with a 5G SIM card slot capable of keeping you online using a mobile network should your main broadband connection fail. It has two Gigabit Ethernet ports, a WAN/LAN, LAN, and an RJ-11 port for a phone line. Its easy to set up and offers an NFC connection option, so you can just wave your phone over it to
connect. This unusual blend of features could be good for business travelers. Performance was solid when it worked, and you can get a very fast connect X6E 5G was intermittently unstable during my testing, dropping devices randomly and cutting
out repeatedly. Netgear Nighthawk RS200: The RS200 is Netgears dual-band (2.4- and 5-GHz) Wi-Fi 7 lineup. After turning the router off and on
again, many devices, including my Pixel and iPhone, struggled to reconnect. Perhaps I have too many devices in my home for it, though Netgear suggests it can handle up to 80. It has two 2.5 Gbps, three gigabit Ethernet, and a USB 3.0 port. Test results were OK, but significantly slower than the RT-BE86U. The expensive subscriptions for Netgear
Armor ($100/year) and Premium Smart Parental Controls ($8/month or $70/year) seem especially pricey with a cheaper router like this.TP-Link Archer AX73, except for the 2.5-Gbps WAN port. It delivers relatively fast speeds on the 2.4-GHz and 5-GHz bands and boasts a
160-MHz channel width on 5 GHz. The range is good, easily covering my home and garden, but the performance was inconsistent. It was also relatively slow at moving files locally. Theres support for TP-Link OneMesh, VPN, and QoS, but you only get basic parental controls and network security unless you subscribe. MSi RadiX AXE6600: This Wi-Fi 6E
tri-band gaming router has that familiar red and black Sith spider look, though you can customize the lighting. It proved very fast in most of my tests, coming close to the top of the table at short range on the 6-GHz band and offering average performance on the 5-GHz and 2.4-GHz bands. But the mobile app had limited options, a confusing layout, and
was buggy (it crashed on me more than once). The web interface was better, with more options, including open VPN, simple parental controls, guest network, and QoS optimization for gaming. Unfortunately, performance was inconsistent, and I suffered random drops twice in a week of testing. Power up with unlimited access to WIRED. Get best-in-
class reporting and exclusive subscriber content that's too important to ignore. Subscribe Today. We tested dozens of routers to see which ones provide the fastest Wi-Fi speeds on the planet Aug 19, 2024 Share Best Routers TP-Links Archer AX11000 is our pick as the best router for speed. We ran dozens of routers through our battery of tests, and
the AX11000 performed exceptionally well, hitting high speeds even outside the confines of the building. Its not the fastest router we have in stock, but it easily handles multi-gig internet connectivity make it our favorite router for speed. We vigorously test routers to
see how well they stack up against the competition in speed and range. We also evaluate the setup process and dig into the web and mobile apps to see if theyre easy or difficult to use. Check out our methodology page for more information. Right off the bat, you need to ensure the router supports multi-gig internet if you want the fastest Wi-Fi speeds
you can get. Theres no point in getting a router with incredible wireless speeds if it only supports Gigabit internet at the most. We list routers with a multi-gig WAN port, but some link aggregation configurations work too. You also need a router with Wi-Fi 6, at the least. Actually, we suggest Wi-Fi 6E and the new 6 GHz connection for real-world Gig+
wireless speeds, as youre not bombarded with the radar woes plaguing the 5 GHz channels. *Amazon.com price (as of 8/19/24 11:15 MST). Read full disclaimer. Each antenna plugs into the main unit, but you can easily
turn Wi-Fi off with the press of a button on the TP-Link Archer AX11000. The TP-Link Archer AX11000 includes multigig internet and wired LAN support. The Archer AX11000 has one of the best Wi-Fi 6 speeds around based on our
testing. Features 4 Includes free Trend Micro antivirus, decent parental controls, and media sharing. Design 4 Packs 8 LAN ports, USB connectivity, and 3 Wi-Fi bands. Setup 4 Offers a smooth and quick process via the app or web browser. Ease of use 4 Presents the best web interface weve seen on a TP-Link router.* out of 5 points What we like about it:
The Archer AX11000 has the second-fastest close-range speeds weve tested to date. And for the price, its a steal with free Trend Micro security, a built-in VPN server, and more. What we wish it did better: While the whole setup process is doable, TP-Link should split the setup process into Basic and Advanced modes so novice users can jump into
network management faster. Why do we recommend it? The Archer AX11000 is one of our favorite routers. You cant beat what you get for this price. It has great speeds, long range, free Trend Micro antivirus, and multi-gig internet support. If you want a superfast router at an affordable price, this is the one for you. Alternative: The Archer AX6000 is a
cheaper two-band version if you want to save a little money. Tested speeds at a glance GHz max speed feet 40 feet 1,200860692282* Speeds in megabits per second (Mbps) using a Wi-Fi 6 client and an 80 MHz channel. See our Benchmarks section for more speed results from our testing. Wi-Fi specsWired specsStandard: Wi-Fi 6Max
throughput: 11,000MbpsAntennas: 8Streams: 12Bands: 3WAN ports (12.5Gbps): 1LAN ports: 8USB 3.2 ports: 2Max internet speed supported: ~2,370Mbps *Amazon.com price (as of 8/19/24 11:15 MST). Read full disclaimer. The Reyee RG-E5 has great range for offices and homes. The Reyee RG-E5 includes a WPS button on top for fast device
pairing. The Reyee RG-E5 antennas don't detach, but you can rotate them 90 degrees. The Reyee RG-E5 is one of the easiest routers weve used to date. Category Score*Summary Performance 4 Pushes incredible speeds at a long range for a budget-priced
router. Features 3 Includes free security and cloud-based network management. Design 3 Lacks multi-gig internet support and USB connectivity. Setup 4 Offers a quick and painless setup experience. Ease of use 4 Presents a great experience across the web interface and app.* out of 5 points What we like about it: The Reyee RG-E5 doesnt support multi-gig
internet, its true, but it currently has the highest tested speed average at 120 feet. There are a few other callouts, too, like free security and basic parental controls. What we wish it did better: We dont expect much at this price, but you can get VPN tools and media sharing on other similarly-priced routers. Why do we recommend it? The Reyee RG-E5
is a great budget-oriented router, even though it seems geared toward business owners. It has an incredible range, cloud-based network management, and mesh support. Tested speeds at a glance 5 GHz max speed feet 120 feet 1,2008 43636330* Speeds in megabits per second (Mbps) using a Wi-Fi 6 client and an 80 MHz channel. See our
Benchmarks section for more speed results from our testing. Wi-Fi specsWired specsStandard: Wi-Fi 6Max throughput: 3,200MbpsAntennas: 8Streams: 8Bands: 2WAN ports: 1LAN ports: 1LAN ports: 4Max internet speed supported: ~940Mbps *Amazon.com price (as of 8/19/24 11:15 MST). Read full disclaimer. The RAXE500 and RAX200 have very few notable
features, but they have incredible ranges. You can use the Multi-Gig Ethernet port on the RAXE500 and RAX200 for a speedy internet connection on the RAXE500 and RAX200 has four antennas. The new 6 GHz connection on the RAXE500 and RAX200 has four antennas.
RAXE500 and RAX200 sparkles like deep space if you look at it just right. The Nighthawk app provides a better experience than the web interface. Category Score*Summary Performance 5 Pushes the fastest speeds weve seen on a standalone router to date. Features 3 Locks most parental controls and security features behind
subscriptions.Design4Employs the 6 GHz Wi-Fi band for more attainable Gig+ wireless speeds.Setup4Gets you up and running in no time flat. Ease of use3Presents a better app experience than the web interface.* out of 5 points What we like about it: The RAXE500 is no joke. Its the only router weve tested to date that still registers throughput at 160
feet. The new 6 GHz wireless connection promises even more reliable Wi-Fi speeds. What we wish it did better: The RAXE500 and RAX200 require subscriptions to get the most out of them, including security and parental controls. Why do we recommend it? If long range is what you need, then you cant beat the RAXE500 and RAX200 routers. Theyre
speed demons at close range, too, plus the RAXE500 model gives you access to the 6 GHz band for more attainable real-world Gig+ wireless speeds. Alternative: The Nighthawk RAX200 is a cheaper version if you want to save a little money. It swaps out the third 6 GHz band for a 5 GHz one. Tested speeds at a glance 5 GHz max speed feet 40 feet 120
feet1,200878693285* Speeds in megabits per second (Mbps) using a Wi-Fi 6 client and an 80 MHz channel. See our Benchmarks section for more speed results from our testing. Wi-Fi 6Max throughput: 11,000MbpsAntennas: 8Streams: 12Bands: 3WAN ports (1Gbps): 1LAN ports (12.5Gbps): 1USB
3.2 ports: 2Max internet speed supported: ~2,370Mbps *Amazon.com price (as of 8/19/24 11:15 MST). Read full disclaimer. The Rapture GT-AX11000 has eight antennas you screw into place, but they can fall over time. The Rapture GT-AX11000 has some of the fastest Wi-Fi speeds weve
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tested to date. You dont need to be a gamer to appreciate everything the Rapture GT-AX11000 has one of the best web interfaces weve used to date. Category Score\*Summary Performance 4Broadcasts great speeds based on our tests, even at 120 feet. Features 5Includes parental controls, free security, and

loads more.Design4Packs 3 bands, 8 streams, and a pair of USB ports.Setup4Requires a few added steps you dont normally take on other routers.Ease of use4Presents one of the best web interfaces weve seen to date.\* out of 5 points What we like about it: The GT-AX11000 is a gaming router at heart, and there are plenty of cool gaming features to be had here. It also has free parental controls, free security, media sharing, and VPN tools. What we wish it did better: We had issues with the antennas, as some refused to be a gamer to love the GT-AX11000. It has great speeds even at long range and tons specsStandard: Wi-Fi 6Max throughput: 11,000MbpsAntennas: 8Streams: 12Bands: 3WAN ports (1Gbps): 1WAN/LAN ports (12.5Gbps): 1LAN ports: 4USB 3.2 ports: 4USB 3.2 ports: 4USB 3.2 ports: 2Max internet speed supported: ~2,370Mbps \*Amazon.com price (as of 8/19/24 11:15 MST). Read full disclaimer. You can mount the Deco X50-PoE on a wall or on the ceiling. Each Deco X50-PoE unit includes a mounting bracket you can slide on and off. The Deco X50-PoE includes all the screws and washers you need. Each Deco X50-PoE in best for business, but you can use it in homes too. The new Deco app is a vast improvement over the previous version.CategoryScore\*SummaryPerformance4Has good speeds for a mesh system based on our testing.Features3Includes some free basic parental controls but requires a subscription for more.Design4Supports Power over Ethernet networking and multi-gig internet.Setup4Leads novice users through a step-by-step installation.Ease of use4Offers and subscription for more.Design4Supports Power over Ethernet networking and multi-gig internet.Setup4Leads novice users through a step-by-step installation.Ease of use4Offers and subscription for more.Design4Supports Power over Ethernet networking and multi-gig internet.Setup4Leads novice users through a step-by-step installation.Ease of use4Offers and subscription for more.Design4Supports Power over Ethernet networking and multi-gig internet.Setup4Leads novice users through a step-by-step installation.Ease of use4Offers and subscription for more.Design4Supports Power over Ethernet networking and multi-gig internet.Setup4Leads novice users through a step-by-step installation.Ease of use4Offers and subscription for more.Design4Supports Power over Ethernet networking and multi-gig internet.Setup4Leads novice users through a step-by-step installation.Ease of use4Offers and subscription for more.Design4Supports Power over Ethernet networking and subscription for more.De improved user experience thanks to a major Deco app update.\* out of 5 pointsWhat we like about it: The Deco X50-PoE has decent speeds, even at a long range. Youll find some nice callouts here, too, like free basic parental controls and PoE networking. What we wish it did better: You can set the 5 GHz channel width, but you cant change the channel This limitation may be problematic if other networks bombard you. Why do we recommend it? The Deco X50-PoE is the ideal mesh networking system for business, but its also great for homes that need Wi-Fi in areas without a power outlet. The free basic parental controls are also nice, but thats it in features without a subscription. Tested speeds at a glance5 GHz max speed2 feet40 feet120 feet1,20082136683\* Speeds in megabits per second (Mbps) using a Wi-Fi 6 client and an 80 MHz channel. See our Benchmarks section for more speed results from our testing. Wi-Fi 6 pecsStandard: Wi-Fi 6 client and an 80 MHz channel. See our Benchmarks section for more speed results from our testing. Wi-Fi 6 pecsStandard: Wi-Fi 6 pecsStan ports (1Gbps): 1Max internet speed supported: ~2,370Mbps The TP-Link Archer AX11000 is our top pick router for speed. It doesn't have the absolute fastest wireless speeds under the sun, but its ideal if you mainly want to avoid Wi-Fi altogetheryou can even link two of them together for a 2Gbps wired connection. The free antivirus and premium parental tools round out a great package for the money. Amazon.com Prices as of 8/19/24 11:15 MST. Product prices and availability are accurate as of the date/time indicated and are subject to change. Any price and availability information displayed on Amazon.com at the time of purchase will apply to the purchase of this product. Highspeedinternet.com utilizes paid Amazon links. CERTAIN CONTENT THAT APPEARS ON THIS SITE COMES FROM AMAZON. THIS CONTENT THAT APPEARS ON THIS SITE COMES FROM AMAZON. of experience working as a writer, editor, and product tester. He began writing about computer hardware and soon branched out to other devices and services such as networking equipment, phones and tablets, game consoles, and other internet-connected devices. His work has appeared in Toms Hardware, Tom's Guide, Maximum PC, Digital Trends, Android Authority, How-To Geek, Lifewire, and others. At HighSpeedInternet.com, he focuses on network equipment testing about tech and the internet, with a specialty in hands-on testing. She started writing tech product and service reviews while finishing her BFA in creative writing at the University of Evansville and has found her niche writing about home networking, routers, and internet access at HighSpeedInternet.com. Her work has also been featured on Top Ten Reviews, MacSources, Windows Central, Android Central, Best Company, TechnoFAQ, and iMore. Best Wi-Fi Routers 2025(Image credit: Shutterstock)Your Wi-Fi router is at the heart of your daily computing experience. You can have the best CPU and the best CPU and the best credit: Shutterstock)Your Wi-Fi router is at the heart of your daily computing experience. You can have the best CPU and the best the table for any device not connected via Ethernet. Even if your internet connection is 300 Mbps, you may not get full speed. Fortunately, you dont need to spend a lot of money to purchase a router thats more than adequate for even a mid-sized home. Below, well list the best Wi-Fi 6E, and 7 routers based on our testing, and some of these cost less than \$100.Quick List Best Wi-Fi Routers You Can Buy TodayWhy you can trust Tom's HardwareOur expert reviewers spend hours testing and comparing products and services so you can trust Tom's Hardware)For the past few years, Wi-Fi 6 routers have been the sweet spot for value for price-sensitive consumers its easy to find them for around \$100 or less. However, TP-Link is turning that notion upside down with its Archer BE3600, which is a Wi-Fi 7 router with a price tag of \$99.Before we get ahead of ourselves, we should tamper your expectations by mentioning that that is a dual-band Wi-Fi 7 router, meaning that it lacks the speedy 6 GHz band. This is what allows TP-Link to hit sub-\$100 pricing for the Archer BE3600. However, you do still get support for Multi-Link Operation (MLO) and 4K-QAM.Once you get past the lack of the 6 GHz band, 5 GHz performance is quite strong for this budget router. Our review unit was able to surpass 1 Gbps on the 5 GHz band, and it even topped 200 Mbps on the 2.4 GHz band at 6-foot and 25-foot distances. Besides the respectable wireless performance, the Archer BE3600 also comes equipped with a pretty stout (for its price) assortment of ports on the back. Youll find one 2.5 Gbps port for WAN and one 2.5 Gbps port for LAN, plus three 1 Gbps LAN. Theres even a single USB 3.0 port for sharing your external storage wirelessly over a network. Read: TP-Link Archer BE3600 Wi-Fi 7 Router ReviewBest Wi-Fi 6E Router(Image credit: Tom's Hardware) If your evilling to spend closer to \$200, the MSI RadiX AXE6600 is a fantastic choice. This Wi-Fi 6E router delivers really strong throughput on the 6-GHz band, which is exclusive to 6E (and Wi-Fi 7) routers. On our iPerf network tests, the RadiX AXE6600 achieved speeds of up to 532 Mbps, nearly 200 Mbps ahead of its nearest competitor. Those numbers shrank a bit at far distances, but you cant get much faster when you have a solid connection. At 5 GHz, the RadiX was also strong at near connections, hitting a rate of 486 Mbps, the best we tested. But those numbers dropped a bit when we moved farther away or introduced a lot more network traffic. The routers 2.4-GHz performance was mediocre, but if your elooking for high speeds, youd use the 5 or 6-GHz band for your device. The RadiX AXE6600 also has a great web control panel, filled with great information about your router, even the CPU and memory consumption, two things we rarely even look at on a router software on your PC. Read: MSI RadiX AXE6600 Wi-Fi 6E ReviewBest Wi-Fi 7 Router(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)If you want lightning-fast speeds that can handle your growing number of Wi-Fi 7 devices, look no further than the Asus RT-BE96U. In our wireless testing, we measured throughput of over 3 Gbps, putting it even ahead of the more expensive ASUS ROG Rapture GT-BE98 Pro Wi-Fi 7 router.Although it doesn't have as many high-speed ports as the ROG Rapture GT-BE98 Pro, you still get two 10 Gbps ports (one for LAN, one for WAN) and four 1 Gbps ports. You also get a USB 2.0 and USB 3.0 port, which can be used to tether to a smartphone. That's right, you can connect to your smartphone and use its cellular connectivity to provide internet access to your entire home in case of a service outage by your cable or fiber provides a full suite of software features to help you get the most performance (and functionality) out of the router, including comprehensive parental controls, advanced guest network configurations, adaptive QoS, and remote access to the drives plugged into the USB ports. All of this performance and features dont come cheap, with an MSRP of \$700, but that's still \$100 cheaper than the ROG Rapture GT-BE98 Pro. Read: Asus RT-BE96U Wi-Fi 7 ReviewBest Wi-Fi 7 ReviewBest Wi-Fi 7 ReviewBest Wi-Fi 7 ReviewBest Wi-Fi 7 Mesh Router (Image credit: Tom's Hardware) The Asus RT-BE96U Wi-Fi 7 ReviewBest Wi-Fi 8 ReviewB thanks to strong performance across the board, especially on the 6 GHz band. You, of course, get access to the full Wi-Fi 7 spec, including MLO, 4K-QAM, and support for 320 MHz channeling. We observed over 3.5 Gbps in throughput on the 6 GHz band at 6-foot distances, which dropped to around 1.9 Gbps at 25 feet. Those are the fastest wireless speeds weve seen yet from a wireless router. Even 5 GHz performance saw speeds reach over 1.6 Gbps. You get a router and one satellite in the box, both featuring one 10 Gbps LAN, one 10 Gbps LAN, one 10 Gbps LAN, and three 1 Gbps LAN, and three 1 Gbps LAN. We would have liked to have seen those 1 Gbps LAN, and three 1 Gbps LAN, system. With that said, Asus packed the ZenWiFi BQ16 Pro with a wealth of features, including Dual WAN capabilities, MLO aggregation for the wireless backhaul, wired backhaul support, and even cellular internet support via a connected smartphone via the USB 3.0 port. Throw in Asus comprehensive AsusWRT 5.0 software platform and you have a winning combination for a fast, full coverage Wi-Fi 7 mesh network. With a street price of over \$1,100, the ZenWiFi BQ16 Pro is aimed at enthusiasts who want the most out of their wireless network. With a street price of over \$1,100, the ZenWiFi BQ16 Pro is aimed at enthusiasts who want the most out of their wireless network, and you wont be disappointed. Read: Asus ZenWiFi BQ16 Pro is aimed at enthusiasts who want the most out of their wireless network, and you wont be disappointed. Read: Asus ZenWiFi BQ16 Pro is aimed at enthusiasts who want the most out of their wireless network. Links Deco BE63 is a value-priced Wi-Fi 7 mesh router that should provide more than enough performance for most general consumers. For just \$299 for a two-pack, and with ongoing discounts that can bring the price down to as low as \$240, youd be remiss to leave the BE63 off your radar. We tested a BE63 two-pack, but you can also purchase a three-pack if you need additional coverage. The two-pack covers 5,800 square feet, while the three-pack boosts that coverage to 7,600 square feet. Each BE63 node comes with four 2.5 GHz, and 6 GHz bands (across primary, IoT, and guest networks), access a comprehensive set of parental controls, and integrate a VPN via an easy-to-use smartphone and tablet app. While the 2.4 GHz performance of the BE63 was slightly lower compared to its competitors, its 5 GHz and 6 GHz performance of the BE63 was slightly lower compared to its competitors, its 5 GHz and 6 GHz performance of the BE63 was slightly lower compared to its competitors, its 5 GHz and 6 GHz performance ranked near the top of the class. We achieved nearly 2,000 Mbps download speeds at close range, both with uncongested and congested traffic on the BE63. Overall, the BE63 is an excellent bargain among tri-band Wi-Fi 7 routers, especially considering its sub-\$300 pricing. Read: TP-Link Deco BE63 Wi-Fi 7 Mesh Router ReviewWhat to Look for in a Wi-Fi RouterWi-Fi 6, 6E or 7? If you can spend the extra money (usually in the \$200+ range), you get an additional band, 6 GHz, with a Wi-Fi 6E router and some added throughput. However, the best value for the money lies at Wi-Fi 6, where you can get a really good router for less than \$100. Wi-Fi 7 is significantly faster but its bleeding edge and costs at least \$500, and most devices dont support it yet. Control panel software? The traditional way to set up a router is using a web-based interface from a computer. Many routers can be controlled via smartphone apps, but we recommend avoiding any model that can only be set up via an app. That limits your ability to configure the router when your phone apps, but we recommend avoiding any model that can only be set up via an app. That limits your ability to configure the router when your phone is not around and could force you to reset the router if you lose or wipe your phone. Mesh or not Mesh? Some routers are part of a mesh system that allows you to place one or more satellites in locations around your home in order to boost far connectivity. However, mesh networking devices cost more and the satellites in locations around your home in order to boost far connectivity. However, mesh networking devices cost more and the satellites can introduce latency into the network when you connect to them. So if you don't have a huge home or connectivity issues on different floors, we recommend sticking with a single router. How We Test Wi-Fi Routers Wi throughput speeds, we use iPerf3, a tool that transfers packets on the local network between a server PC, which we connect to the router via Ethernet, and a client device that we use wirelessly. We use a local server rather than hitting one on the Internet, because we dont want to be limited by the bandwidth of our Internet connection, which can vary even from one moment to the next. Perhaps because we are dealing with both a client and a server or because theres a lot of hype when it comes to router speeds, the throughput numbers we get on iPerf3 are always much lower than the theoretical maximums that vendors advertise. For example, while Wi-Fi 6E boasts theoretical speeds of 9.6 Gpbs, we never saw one go above 1,000 Mbps. And, in most cases, we got 500 Mbps or lower. On Wi-Fi 6 connections, we saw speeds in the 250 to 400 Mbps range and, on 2.4-GHz channels, those numbers were usually in the 50 to 150 Mbps range and, on 2.4-GHz channels, those numbers were usually in the 50 to 150 Mbps range and, on 2.4-GHz channels, those numbers were usually in the 50 to 150 Mbps range. With iPerf3, we test all devices at both a near (5 feet or so) and far (25 feet or so) distance from the router. We also test under both uncongested (only device using the network) and congested (other devices sapping bandwidth) conditions. We benchmark on every band that the router supports (2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 6 GHz). Note that 6 GHz is only supported by Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7. If your gaming, latency may actually be more important than throughput, because youre not usually transferring a ton of data when you play. What you are doing is sending your movements to the server and getting a response back so that process has to be quick. We measure latency by pinging our local server under all the same conditions that we use for throughput (near, fear, congested and uncongested). Latency is measured in milliseconds and can go anywhere from 2 milliseconds up to 20+ milliseconds. Lower is better.

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