6 Ways to OPTIMIZE YOUR INTERNET at Home

If you're working or studying at home, consider the impact on your internet network. You've likely introduced a host of new devices—a work or school laptop, a company smartphone, a tablet and more.

READY OR NOT, HERE IT COMES:
More devices means more internet traffic and a whole new workload for your router and network.

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① ROUTER PLACEMENT — This point might seem obvious, but remember to show your router some love. Find a central hub for your router, somewhere free from signal-stealing obstructions including microwaves, walls, windows and cordless phones.

② USE ETHERNET — Game consoles, desktop computers and streaming boxes will generally enjoy more consistent speeds and less signal interference with a wired connection. Go with a wired connection on devices where an Ethernet cable is within reach.

Here are 6 TIPS
to improve your signal strength, get the best available speeds and optimize your home network:

④ MANAGE AND PRIORITIZE — Downloading and streaming are bandwidth-intensive. Download large files such as movies, music and audiobooks during off-peak traffic times. Save files to your hard drive. You'll still be able to enjoy them anytime—offline—without gobbling up bandwidth. If you can, schedule automatic system updates on your devices for overnight, when the network is less busy.

⑤ TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP — If you're still struggling with wireless dead zones or hard-to-reach corners of your home, range extenders, repeaters and mesh networks can help. Range extenders and repeaters grab existing Wi-Fi signals from your router and re-broadcasts them. Mesh networks use a series of nodes set up in the home to distribute a wireless signal.

③ SHARE THE SIGNAL — Consider switching off or temporarily disconnecting certain devices when you're not using them. Is someone streaming a movie in the living room? Maybe you could switch your video call to audio-only. Every little bit helps.

⑥ CONSIDER A MANAGED OPTION — Managed Wi-Fi service leaves set-up, maintenance and troubleshooting with your service provider. You can get help setting up your router, adding devices and securing the best signal.