

BLAZING WI-FI

Without a doubt, more people are enjoying mobile devices: e-book readers, iPods, iPads, tablets, as well as laptops and even PC towers; it's almost automatic that we expect to be able to connect anything, anywhere – especially in our own homes. Wireless networks facilitate that but can lead to frustration. A strong broadband signal can be received in the living room but in the upstairs bedroom or in the guest (rental) house next door it is practically nil. Either the signal is unstable or is as slow as a modem phone connection, so forget about streaming videos, video conferencing, or watching foreign language TV. With the imminent loss in Spain of English TV channels, you'll need more than just the minimum 3 MB of speed – you'll need the latest technology router or router/modem. There are a few things that can help tremendously:

1. The most obvious is to reduce the signal interference, i.e. to get the most direct and clear signal possible from your router. Thick walls, heavy and metal furniture, and lots of twists and turns diminish the potency of the signal. Other wireless devices such as cordless phones and garage door openers also affect the signal strength when they are near the router.
2. Check on your router manufacturer's website for updated software, sometimes called "firmware." With changing times, most fabricators update their equipment - so should you.
3. Older laptops and towers may not have built-in wireless capabilities thus calling for replacement of your PC's network adapter. The newest wireless adapters can greatly improve your device's reception and signal capability. Many people think a tower cannot be wireless; you'd be surprised what the newest wireless adapter can do especially now that more people are returning to towers, old or new ones, together with mobile devices.
4. The most effective solution is to add a router-compatible wireless range extender and/or access point device. The technology of the device sending the signal must match the technology of the device receiving it! These devices basically receive the initial signal and extend it to other areas, a method that has been successful in large homes or residences with more than one building. Keep in mind that the extended signal can only be as good as the initial signal strength received: don't expect an incoming speed of 1Mb to be as strong as a 3Mb. The location of your router and its repeating device need to be configured correctly to obtain maximum performance.

The newest routers and devices include among other things up to 3 powerful antennas, blazing 300 Mbps. transfer rate (by comparison, your old router is 54 Mbps...you do the math), Gigabit LAN ports, multi-functional USB ports to enable printer, file and media sharing in-house or online. The new technology is ideal for bandwidth-heavy users that rely on fast connections for work or entertainment, such as lag-free conference calls, parental control, HD video streaming or online gaming.

So YES, we **CAN** be connected wherever we are....isn't technology just grand?