KERR solutions IT

Your Internet Is Only as Strong as Its Weakest Link



You might be paying for fast internet, but are you actually getting that speed where you need it?

We often hear from customers who have upgraded their NBN or internet connection, only to find that the Wi-Fi around the house still feels slow, unreliable or frustrating. The problem isn't always the internet connection coming into the property. Sometimes the bottleneck is inside the home.

Think of your internet connection like a chain. Your connection can only perform as well as the weakest link in that chain. Your NBN connection, modem, router, Wi-Fi network, cabling and devices all play a part. If one of those links is struggling, it can hold everything else back.

Where Does Your Internet Slow Down?

The signal coming into your modem or router might be perfectly good, but that doesn't guarantee that the same performance will reach your laptop, TV, phone or gaming PC. Every additional bottleneck can reduce performance.

Your modem might be capable of handling your internet speed, but if your Wi-Fi is struggling to get through the house, your devices may never see the speed you're paying for. This becomes particularly noticeable in larger homes, offices, sheds and properties with multiple levels or thick internal walls.

Wi-Fi Doesn't Like Walls or Appliances

Wi-Fi is a radio signal, and like any wireless signal, it becomes weaker as it travels. Distance matters, but so do the things between your router and your device. Solid walls, concrete, brick and other building materials can all reduce Wi-Fi performance. The layout of your home can make a surprisingly big difference to how well your wireless network performs.

Then there are the appliances. Fridges, microwaves and other large electrical appliances can interfere with Wi-Fi signals, particularly when your router or access point is positioned close to them. Microwaves are particularly notorious because they operate around the same 2.4 GHz frequency used by many Wi-Fi networks. When a microwave is running, it can create interference that may cause slower speeds, dropouts or an unreliable connection for nearby devices.

That's one reason we generally don't recommend putting your modem or main Wi-Fi equipment in the kitchen. A modem tucked away behind the fridge, inside a cupboard or surrounded by large appliances might technically be connected to the internet, but that doesn't mean it is in a good position to distribute that connection throughout your home.

Where your Wi-Fi equipment is positioned can be just as important as the internet connection coming into your property. And that's where a properly designed network can make a huge difference.

Why That Cheap Wi-Fi Extender Might Not Be the Answer

We've all seen them: plug-in Wi-Fi extenders promising to magically give you coverage throughout the entire house. Unfortunately, they aren't always the solution.

A traditional wireless repeater has to receive the Wi-Fi signal and then retransmit it. Depending on the equipment and how it is configured, this can introduce another bottleneck and reduce available performance. You can end up with a stronger Wi-Fi signal that is still slow.

In some situations, multiple wireless devices can also compete for the same radio channels, creating interference and making the network less reliable.That's why we generally prefer a properly designed mesh Wi-Fi system, particularly one that can use Ethernet or another dedicated backhaul where practical.

Mesh Wi-Fi: One Network, Better Coverage

A properly configured mesh system uses multiple access points working together to provide coverage across your property. Instead of having one modem trying to blast Wi-Fi through the entire house, the network can be distributed where it is actually needed.

This can provide better coverage, smoother roaming between areas of the property and a more consistent connection for your devices. And if we can connect mesh units using Ethernet rather than relying entirely on wireless communication between them, even better.

Get More From the Internet You're Already Paying For

Before upgrading your internet plan, it can be worth looking at what is happening inside your property. You might not need a faster internet connection. You might need a better network. At Kerr IT Solutions, we can help identify where your Wi-Fi is being held back, assess your coverage and recommend the right solution for your home or business.

Whether you're struggling with Wi-Fi in the back bedroom, trying to get reliable coverage to the shed, constantly buffering your TV, or simply want to make sure you're getting the performance you're paying for, come and talk to us. Because there is no point paying for a faster internet connection if your Wi-Fi is only letting you use half of it.

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