

The Wifi icon is missing from the Windows Taskbar; here's how to fix it.

A missing Wi-Fi icon is usually just a minor software bug that can be easily fixed with a few simple steps.

If your Wi-Fi icon suddenly disappears, don't panic. It's very likely your network card isn't broken. A missing Wi-Fi icon is often just a minor software error that can be easily fixed with a few simple steps. This guide lists common troubleshooting steps to restore a missing Wi-Fi icon in Windows.

Troubleshooting potential software errors.

If the internet is working normally and only the Wi-Fi icon is missing, it's likely a minor software error that can be easily fixed. The most common and quickest solution is to restart File Explorer in Windows . This will reset the taskbar and system tray, restoring the Wi-Fi icon.

If the icon is just a blank space or the icon image is corrupted, you can rebuild the icon cache. You'll have to edit the Registry for this, but for simplicity, the article provides the PowerShell command below to apply the changes automatically:

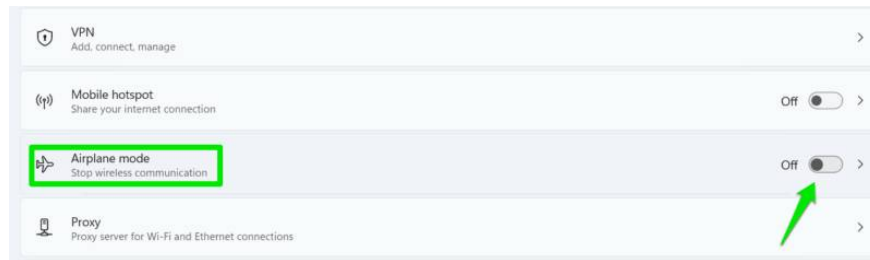
```
Stop-Process -Name explorer -Force $path = "HKCU:SoftwareClassesLocal SettingsSo
```

Alternatively, you can also try restarting your computer, as the fast startup feature is enabled by default in Windows. Simply hold down the **Shift** key and click **Shutdown** in the power menu. Wait a minute before restarting your computer.

Make sure Airplane Mode is turned off.

The Wi-Fi icon will disappear and be replaced by an airplane icon if Airplane Mode is enabled. Make sure you don't accidentally turn on Airplane Mode, as this is easy to do on laptops since most have a dedicated shortcut or physical button to enable it.

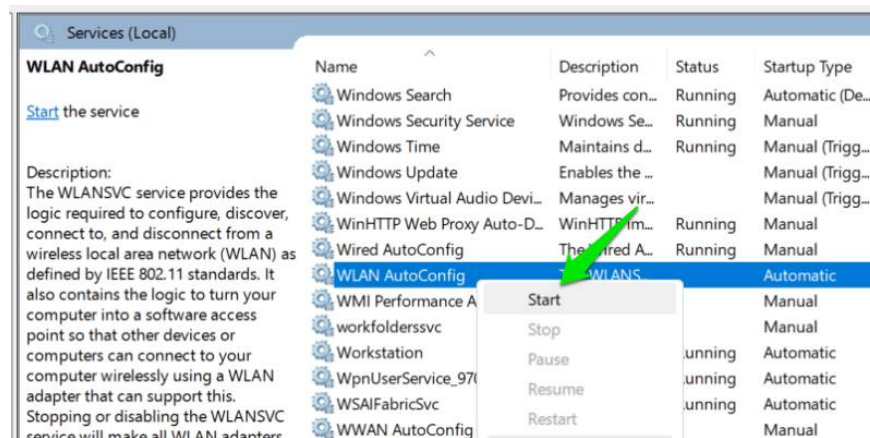
Simply open Windows Settings and go to **Network & Internet** . Here, make sure the **Airplane Mode** option is turned off. You can also press the **Fn** key and the airplane key on your keyboard to quickly turn Airplane Mode on or off.



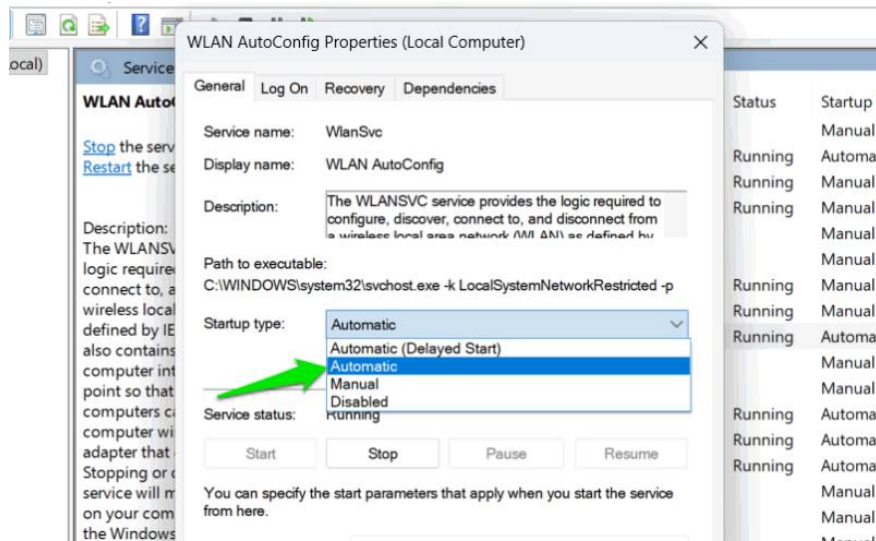
Enable the WLAN AutoConfig service.

WLAN AutoConfig is a Windows service that controls the Wi-Fi functionality on your computer. If it's disabled, not only is the Wi-Fi button removed, but the Wi-Fi option is also removed from Settings. If the internet isn't working and you can't find any Wi-Fi-related options in Settings, it's likely that WLAN AutoConfig has been disabled in some way.

To re-enable it, search for "services" in Windows Search and open the **Services** application . There, right-click on the **WLAN AutoConfig** service and select **Start** .



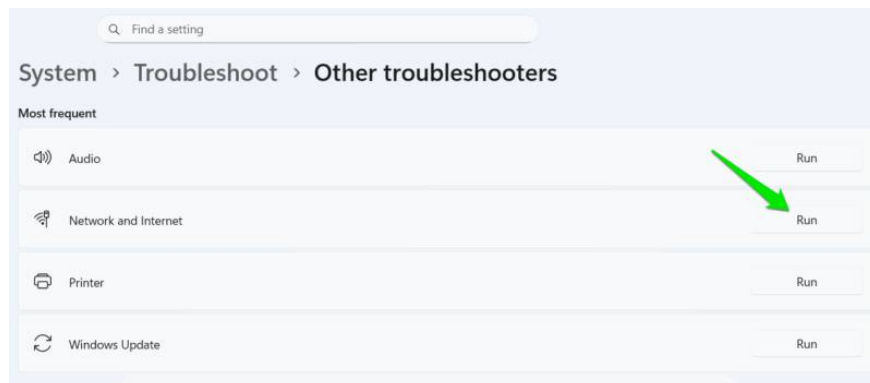
Additionally, make sure that **Startup Type** is set to **Automatic** . If it's set to Manual, right-click on it and select **Properties** . Click next to the **Startup type** drop-down menu and select **Automatic** .



Run the built-in network troubleshooter to automatically fix the missing Wi-Fi icon issue.

Windows has several built-in troubleshooters to fix common Windows problems, including network issues. While it's not a magic solution that can fix every internet problem, it can fix the most common ones. If your Wi-Fi icon disappears due to a known issue, the troubleshooter can help resolve it.

In Windows Settings, go to **System > Troubleshoot > Other troubleshooters** and click the **Run** button next to **Network and Internet**.



The troubleshooter will automatically attempt to detect problems upon launch. If a problem is found, it will try to fix it automatically or request permission to apply the fix.



! Windows networking services might not be running as expected.

Recommendations

To try to fix the problem, try the recommendations in the order below:

Restart network services

It looks like network services have stopped. Select Restart network services to restart them.

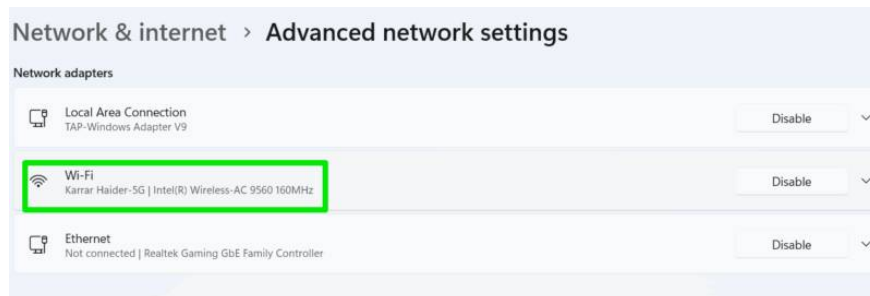
Restart network services

Network adapter management

If none of the above solutions work, it's likely a problem with your network adapter. It's difficult to pinpoint the exact cause of network adapter issues, so we'll go from basic fixes to more advanced ones. Follow the network adapter troubleshooting steps below in order:

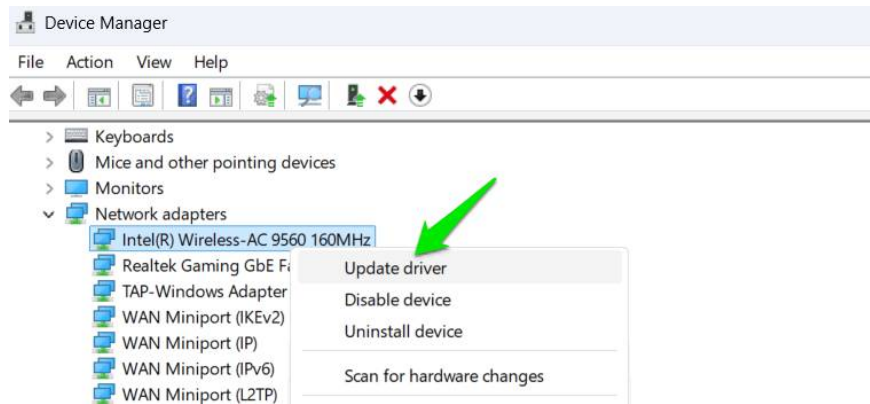
Activate the Wi-Fi Network Adapter.

Disabling the Wi-Fi Network Adapter also results in no Wi-Fi icon and no Wi-Fi settings, similar to disabling the WLAN AutoConfig service. In Windows Settings, go to **Network & internet > Advanced network settings** and make sure the Wi-Fi adapter is enabled.

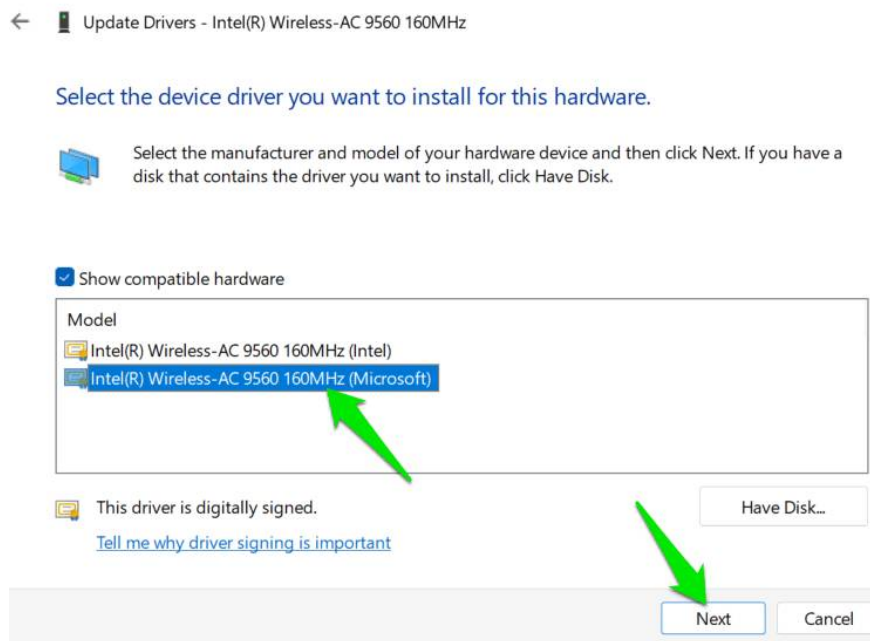


Change the network adapter driver.

The network adapter driver might be the cause of the problem. Fortunately, your computer may have multiple compatible drivers, making it easy to switch to a different one. Search for 'device manager' in Windows Search and open Device Manager . Right-click on your wireless network adapter and select **Update driver** .



Now, click on **Browse my computer for drivers** and then select **Let me pick from a list of available drivers on my computer** . Choose a different driver than the one currently installed and click **Next** to install. If this doesn't fix the problem, try a different driver if available.



Uninstall the network adapter driver.

You can also uninstall the network driver and let Windows handle it automatically. In Device Manager, right-click your network driver and select **Uninstall Device** . Make sure the **Attempt to remove the driver for this device** option is not selected, then click **Uninstall** .



Restart your computer, and Windows will automatically apply the basic network driver to help you connect to the Internet and fix the missing Wi-Fi icon issue. After that, you can go to Windows Update in Settings and click **Check for updates** to find the working network driver.

Although rare, this issue can also occur due to a hardware problem, which in most cases can be fixed by reinstalling the network card. You might also be interested in what to do if your Wi-Fi network stops showing up.

See also:

1. Troubleshooting the issue of having 3G data enabled but unable to connect to the internet on iPhone.
2. Simple ways to boost your home Wi-Fi signal.
3. When you discover someone is using your Wi-Fi without permission, follow these steps to stop them.

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