Why should you use Ethernet instead of Wi-Fi when possible?

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After replacing their Wi-Fi networks with wired access points, people started plugging devices into Ethernet just to see what would happen. The stream stabilized immediately. Smart home responsiveness went from sluggish to instantaneous. The entire system worked smoothly, as if it had only been running at half capacity the whole time. For anything that doesn't move, using cable is almost always the smarter choice – and it costs less than most people realize.

Wi-Fi is convenient, but not reliable.

The invisible problems you've become accustomed to living with.

The problem with Wi-Fi is that it rarely fails completely. It just performs poorly in ways that make it easy to blame something else – the streaming app, the TV's processor, or your internet service provider. Wireless connections are often not thoroughly checked because they look fine. The indicator lights up. You're connected.

But wireless connections have real limitations that accumulate silently. Every device on your network shares the same network space. Your neighbor's router overlaps with yours. The signal degrades as it passes through every wall and floor. By evening, add to that a house full of phones, laptops, and tablets, and the congestion quickly worsens.

Ethernet connectivity provides each device with a separate transmission line.

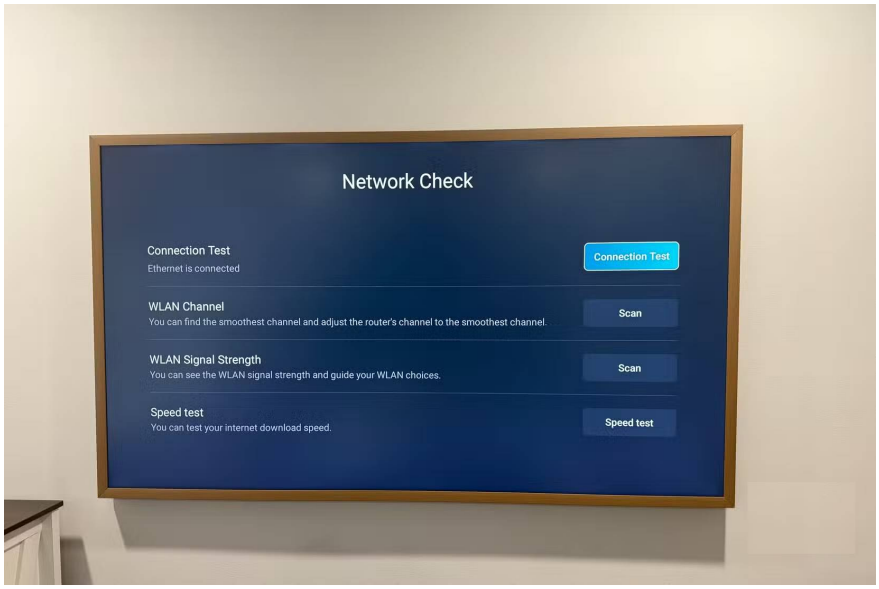
The difference in stability is immediate and obvious.

When you plug a device into Ethernet, it stops competing. It has a direct path to the router, and nothing else touches that connection. The wired device is completely outside of all that interference – no shared frequency space, no signal loss through walls, nothing competing with it at 8 PM when everyone is online.

The practical difference is immediately apparent. The navigation menu, which used to stutter between options, now loads instantly. Image quality maintains full resolution from the very first second, instead of having to wait halfway through the opening scene to regain blurry images.

Some devices benefit more than others.

Prioritize these locations for wired connections.



Not everything needs cables. Your phone moves around constantly – Wi-Fi is a sensible option. The same goes for laptops moving from room to room. The devices worth connecting with cables are those that never move.

Smart TVs and streaming devices are placed in the same location every day, consuming significant bandwidth during hours when your network is already overloaded. Gaming consoles are so sensitive to latency that the advantages of a wired connection are evident in practice. Desktop computers and workstations have no practical reason to use Wi-Fi. Smart home hubs—devices that act as the central control for your lights, locks, thermostats, and cameras—benefit most from a stable connection, as everything else in your smart home depends on them maintaining responsiveness. NAS hard drives or home servers moving large files locally will saturate wireless connections surprisingly quickly.

Installing Ethernet cables is easier than you think.

There are options to suit every home and every situation.

Wiring audio equipment might seem complicated. But in reality, in many cases, it's actually quite simple.

If you're building or renovating, running Ethernet wiring once the walls are open is a virtually free decision. It only costs minimal additional expense at that stage and saves you from worrying about it for years to come.

For existing homes, there are still viable options. Flat Ethernet cables routed along the baseboards using adhesive cable trays will be virtually unnoticeable and still offer the advantage of maximum speed. If the TV is placed on a shelf instead of being wall-mounted, the cables will completely disappear behind the furniture.