

What Wireless Standard is Right for Me?

If you've decided you want a wireless network, the next step is to figure out which wireless standard to use.

Basically, a standard is a set of specifications for a device. All devices that follow a specific standard share operating characteristics, such as the radio frequency used and maximum data transfer speed.

Why choose a wireless network?

- Freedom to work from anywhere within range of the network
- No cables to buy
- Save cabling time and hassle
- Easy to expand

For wireless networking, there are three standards to choose from:

- 802.11b
- 802.11a
- 802.11g

Here is a chart to help- you decide which Standard is right for you

How to choose between B vs. A vs. G ?						
Wireless Standards	802.11B		802.11A		802.11G	
Popularity		Widely available		Mainly used for Business applications		The new standard for wireless technology
Speed	11Mbps	No greater than 11Mbps	54Mbps	Up to 54Mbps	54Mbps	Up to 54Mbps
Relative Cost		Inexpensive		Relatively more expensive		Relatively Inexpensive
Frequency	2.4 Ghz	Interference may occur with other 2.4 Ghz equipment. such as cordless phones, microwave ovens, etc.	5 Ghz	5Ghz frequency band can work with 2.4Ghz equipment without interference.	2.4 Ghz	Interference may occur with other 2.4 Ghz equipment. such as cordless phones, microwave ovens, etc.
Range	50-100	Good Range typically between 50 and 100 feet indoors. depending on the construction and layout of the room	25-75	Shorter Range than 802.11B or 802.11G if larger range is required, several AP's must be installed.	100-150	Best Range typically between 100 and 150 feet indoors. depending on the construction and layout of the room
Public Access	Widely Available	Fully compatible with 802.11B hotspots	Not Available	None at this time	Widely Available	Compatible with 802.11G hotspots at high speed (54 Mbps) as well as compatible with 802.11B hotspots at low speed (11Mbps)
Compatibility		Widest Compatibility with today's wireless networks		Incompatible with 802.11B or 802.11G		Backwards compatible with 802.11B