Access Router and Access Switch

Overview

Router vs Switch vs Access Point: What Each Box Actually DoesRouters move traffic between networks, switches connect wired devices on a network, and access.

Key Takeaways

To connect an access switch to a router, use an Ethernet cable from a LAN port on the router to any port on the switch, then power on both devices and verify connectivity.Purpose of Connecting a Switch to a Router

A router connects your local network to the internet and manages IP addresses, while a switch expands the number of available Ethernet ports, allowing multiple devices to communicate locally and access the internet simultaneously . This setup is especially useful when your router has limited LAN ports or when you want to maintain high-speed wired connections for multiple devices .

Step-by-Step Connection Guide
• Gather Equipment: Ensure you have the router, access switch, and Ethernet cables ready .

• Power Off Devices: Turn off both the router and switch to prevent electrical issues during setup .

• Identify Ports: Locate the LAN ports on the router and the ports on the switch. Most switches allow any port to connect to the router .

• Connect Ethernet Cable: Plug one end of the Ethernet cable into a LAN port on the router and the other end into any port on the switch .

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• Power On Devices: Turn on the router first, then the switch. Wait for the devices to fully boot and initialize .

• Verify Connection: Check the LED indicators on both devices to confirm a successful link. You can also connect a device to the switch and test internet access .
Configuration Tips
• Router Settings: Access the router's web interface using its IP address (commonly 192.168.0.1 or 192.168.1.1) to ensure DHCP is enabled, which automatically assigns IP addresses to devices connected through the switch .

• Switch Type: For basic home or office setups, an unmanaged switch works without additional configuration. Managed switches may require console access for advanced features .

• Multiple Switches: You can daisy-chain additional switches by connecting one switch to another, but ensure each ultimately connects back to the router for proper network access .
Best Practices
• Use LAN connections instead of Wi-Fi for devices that require maximum speed and low latency, such as gaming consoles or workstations .

• Choose a switch with sufficient ports and speed (10 Mbps to 1 Gbps or higher) based on your network needs .

• Keep firmware updated on both the router and managed switches to maintain security and performance . By following these steps, your access switch will effectively expand your network, allowing multiple devices to communicate locally and access the internet efficiently.

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Our resident IT expert Ross Thomas stops by to discuss routers, access points and the components of a secure WiFi

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The Access Switches connect end-user devices (computers, phones, printers) within each VLAN. The Edge Router

Need to Update Your Wi-Fi Router Settings? Here''s What to Do

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Complete these steps Use a PC or similar device to find your router''s IP address (often listed as Default Gateway). If you do not have

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