How to choose a router for your fiber optic internet connection

Overview

Your router''s WAN (internet) port is the physical connection between the ONT and your home network.

Key Takeaways

Select a router that supports multi-gig speeds, modern Wi-Fi standards, sufficient coverage, and multiple LAN ports to fully utilize fiber optic internet.Key Factors to Consider

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1. Data Transfer Rate: Fiber optic internet can deliver speeds up to several gigabits per second. Choose a router that supports at least 1 Gbps, with Wi-Fi 6 (AX) or Wi-Fi 7 (BE) standards for optimal performance . Multi-gig routers with 2.5G or 10G WAN/LAN ports are ideal for future-proofing and high-bandwidth activities . 2. Wi-Fi Standard: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7 routers provide faster speeds, lower latency, and better handling of multiple devices. Wi-Fi 7 routers, like the NETGEAR Nighthawk RS700S or ASUS RT-BE86U, offer advanced features such as Multi-Link Operation (MLO) and 4096-QAM modulation for speeds up to 6.5 Gbps . 3. Coverage and Range: Consider the size of your home or office. Dual-band or tri-band routers with strong internal or external antennas ensure reliable coverage. Routers like the NETGEAR Nighthawk RS700S can cover up to 3,500 sq. ft., while maintaining stable connections across multiple devices . 4. Number of LAN Ports: For wired connections, ensure the router has at least 4 Gigabit LAN ports. Routers with LAN aggregation or 10G ports allow combining ports for faster wired speeds, which is useful for gaming, NAS, or desktop PCs . 5. Device Capacity: High-performance routers can support multiple devices simultaneously. For example, the NETGEAR Nighthawk RS700S supports up to 150 devices, making it suitable for homes with many smart devices or small offices . 6. Security and Management Features: Look for routers with built-in security features like malware protection, parental controls, and Quality of Service (QoS) to prioritize traffic. Some routers offer app-based management for easy setup and monitoring .

Recommended Router Options

• NETGEAR Nighthawk RS700S (Wi-Fi 7): High-speed, tri-band, supports multi-gig WAN/LAN, ideal for gaming, streaming, and large homes .

• ASUS RT-BE86U (Wi-Fi 7): Quad-core processor, 10G WAN/LAN, excellent for heavy internet usage and multiple users .

• UFiber UF-WiFi6: Budget-friendly, Wi-Fi 6, suitable for standard fiber setups, supports 4 LAN ports, easy management via UniFi systems .

• TP-Link Archer AX21 (AX1800): Wi-Fi 6, dual-band, OFDMA and MU-MIMO support, good for moderate home use with multiple devices .

Summary

When choosing a router for fiber optic internet, prioritize multi-gig speed support, modern Wi-Fi standards, strong coverage, sufficient LAN ports, and device capacity. High-end routers like the NETGEAR Nighthawk RS700S or ASUS RT-BE86U are ideal for heavy usage, while budget-friendly options like UFiber UF-WiFi6 or TP-Link AX1800 provide reliable performance for everyday tasks. Ensuring these features will maximize your fiber internet experience for streaming, gaming, and network-intensive applications.

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