

4 Myths about “Wi-Fi”

- 1. Wi-Fi stands for ‘wireless fidelity’** – Actually, Wi-Fi doesn’t stand for anything. The name was commercialized in 1999 as a pun on “Hi-Fi” which stands for High Fidelity.
- 2. Wi-Fi is synonymous with ‘wireless internet’** – Actually, Wi-Fi has nothing to do with the Internet – it is entirely possible to connect to the Internet without Wi-Fi and be connected to a Wi-Fi access point and not have an internet connection. Wi-Fi is a wireless networking technology. Most desktops and some laptops use Ethernet cables to connect to a switch in your Local Area Network. In large buildings, wireless access points are cabled to a switch. The switch is connected to a router, which connects two networks together – in most cases, your LAN and the Internet. Consumer-routers often combine the router, switch, and wireless access point into one unit. All Wi-Fi does is remove the need to run a cable between your device and the LAN switch. Whether that switch is connected to a router that is connected to the Internet is entirely unrelated.
- 3. Wi-Fi is fast, secure, and reliable** – Not so fast – wired connections are much faster than wireless connections. And because your data is sent through the air rather than over cables, it’s also inherently insecure. And forget about reliability with wireless.
- 4. Wi-Fi is safe** – While the industry would love for you to believe that, all wireless technologies (including cell phones, cordless phones, smart-meters, and Wi-Fi), emit pulsed electromagnetic radiation, a Class 2B carcinogen. Because this radiation can cause DNA damage, behavioral problems, heart palpitations, difficulty concentrating, headaches, sleep disorders, infertility, cancer, and many other health implications, Wi-Fi (and all wireless technologies) should be especially avoided by children since their brains are still developing and the cumulative radiation from wireless devices could permanently impair or disable them.

Learn more about safe technology practices at
<https://wirelessaction.wordpress.com>