Will replacing my 100Mbps fiber optic cable with a gigabit router help if it s too slow



Overview

For wired networks under 100M fiber, it''s unnecessary—you won''t see improved speeds. But for wireless performance, especially with modern devices, a gigabit router can ...

Key Takeaways

Replacing a 100Mbps fiber connection with a gigabit router will not increase your wired internet speed, but it can improve wireless performance.

Wired Network Considerations

If your fiber optic service is limited to 100Mbps, the maximum speed your devices can achieve over a wired connection is capped by the service itself, not the router. Even a gigabit router cannot exceed the 100Mbps limit of your ISP plan, because the bottleneck is the WAN port of the Optical Network Terminal (ONT) and the service tier provided by your ISP. Upgrading the router alone will not increase download or upload speeds for devices connected via Ethernet.

Wireless Network Benefits

A gigabit router, especially a Wi-Fi 6 or 6E model, can improve wireless network performance. Older routers may limit Wi-Fi speeds due to outdated standards (Wi-Fi 4 or Wi-Fi 5) or weaker processing power. Upgrading to a modern router can provide faster wireless throughput, better device management, and improved coverage, which is particularly beneficial if you use smartphones, tablets, or laptops over Wi-Fi.

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When an Upgrade Makes SenseIf your wired devices are already achieving near 100Mbps, a new router will not help. If your wireless devices experience slow speeds, buffering, or congestion, a gigabit router can enhance performance. To fully utilize speeds above 100Mbps, you would need to upgrade your ISP plan to a higher tier (e.g., 500Mbps or 1Gbps) and ensure all network components, including cables and network cards, support gigabit speeds.

Additional Tips

Use Cat 5e or Cat 6 Ethernet cables to support higher speeds. Place the router in a central location to reduce interference and improve Wi-Fi coverage. Check for firmware updates to optimize router performance.

Consider network congestion and the number of connected devices, as these can affect perceived speed. In summary, a gigabit router will not increase your wired 100Mbps fiber speed, but it can significantly improve wireless performance and future-proof your network for higher-speed plans.

Article Content

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According to my ISP, i have 1000/1000 internet but after trying on 2 different devices with a different ethernet cable plugged into my router, I only get around 400-600 Mbps download and 100-150 Mbps

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Key Takeaways: Yes, you can use your own router with fiber internet, as long as it has a Gigabit Ethernet WAN port to connect to your ISP''s Optical Network Terminal. Upgrading to a Wi-Fi 6

Can I use my existing router with fiber?

While your current router might physically connect to the fiber network via an ONT and Ethernet cable, its capabilities will dictate whether you actually experience the blazing-fast speeds

The most common fix is simple: reseat or replace the Ethernet cable, try another LAN port, and confirm the device is linking at gigabit speed. From there, checking hardware capabilities,

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