



Bell Ringer

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HOW TO GET THE FASTEST, FARTHEST REACHING WI-FI

From upgrading your old router to using a Wi-Fi Mesh Extender, we've got you covered. Here are six tips on how to improve the speed and coverage of your Wi-Fi network at home.

1.

Sign up for Blast Wi-Fi, which includes a router & app:

When you sign up for Blast Wi-Fi, you have three packages to choose from:

Blast Wi-Fi - \$5.95

- Ideal for small homes

Blast Wi-Fi Plus - \$8.95

- Ideal for medium homes/
small businesses

Blast Wi-Fi Max - \$14.95

- Ideal for large homes/
businesses

2.

Position your router in a central location:

To ensure optimal Wi-Fi coverage throughout your home, it's best to position your router in a central location, away from walls and other obstructions. This will help minimize signal interference and ensure that your devices can easily connect to the Wi-Fi network.

3.

Use wired connections for devices that require a stable connection:

If you have devices that require a stable and consistent Internet connection, such as gaming consoles or desktop computers, it's best to use a wired connection instead of Wi-Fi. This will help to minimize latency and ensure a stable connection.

4.

Remove old devices from your network:

Older devices that are no longer used or rarely used can slow down your Wi-Fi network. You can remove these devices from your network using the Blast Wi-Fi app (included with all the Blast Wi-Fi plans above) to free up bandwidth and improve Wi-Fi performance for your other devices.

5.

Enable MyPriorities in the Blast Wi-Fi app:

MyPriorities is an exclusive feature of ExperienceIQ® in your Blast Wi-Fi app (must subscribe to Blast Wi-Fi and ExperienceIQ®). With MyPriorities enabled, you can prioritize Internet traffic, such as streaming video, online gaming, or work apps, to ensure they receive sufficient bandwidth and do not lag or buffer.

6.

Use a Wi-Fi Mesh Extender for indoors or outdoors:

If you have a large home or areas with weak Wi-Fi coverage, consider using a Mesh Extender or an Outdoor Mesh. These devices can boost the signal of your existing router to provide seamless Wi-Fi coverage throughout your home or patio by using multiple access points.

If you want more information on ITC routers, Blast Wi-Fi, or Mesh Extenders, go to www.itc-web.com/blast-wi-fi and learn about the packages offered. With this subscription, you can take control of your Wi-Fi. The app dashboard gives you a snapshot view of the network in your home or small business. For any questions or concerns about your home Wi-Fi experience, please get in touch with ITC at 1.800.417.8667.

EXPLORING NEW ROUTERS

By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician

On the cover of July's Bell Ringer, ITC announced a multi-year project to upgrade communities to new Internet speeds. You might wonder what the new speed packages mean for you and the gadgets at home. The demand for reliable Internet keeps growing as our homes fill up with more devices like smart speakers in the kitchen, security cameras outside, video calls in the office, streaming boxes in the living room, and maybe even a smart fridge reminding you you're out of milk. All these devices share your connection, and older routers can only juggle so much at once.

That's where new protocols like Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7 come in. Think of them as smarter traffic lights. Instead of letting one device hog the whole highway, they keep data flowing smoothly so your video call doesn't freeze just because someone else starts streaming a movie in 4K.

Wi-Fi 6 routers do this by efficiently managing how devices talk to the router and cutting down on wait times. It isn't just about raw speed. It's about ensuring everyone in your household gets a fair share without lag or buffering.

Wi-Fi 7 takes it a step further, supporting even faster speeds and handling more devices simultaneously. If your household has multiple people on video calls, someone working from home, and streaming and gaming, Wi-Fi 7 is built to keep things running smoothly.

You can also use the ITC Blast Wi-Fi app to fine-tune your network. For example, you might prioritize your work laptop during the day or give the gaming console priority in the evening. Whatever you choose gets bumped to the front of the line on your network.

Now, does this mean your older router is useless? Not at all. If your current router keeps up with what you do, whether browsing, streaming HD video, or just staying connected day to day, you're already set. The new routers simply open the door to better performance to take full advantage of faster Internet speeds, add more smart home gadgets, or accommodate a busier household.

Another plus is that the new GigaSpire routers are designed to cover more of your home. That means a stronger signal in tricky spots like the back bedroom or patio.

If you're curious, ITC can help you determine which router makes the most sense for your home and habits. Because let's be honest, nobody wants to read a manual the size of a phone book to get Wi-Fi working. With a router from ITC, we help make your household's Internet the best it can be! Call ITC at 1.800.417.8667 for more information.



SAVE MONEY ON STAMPS

By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist

With the price of stamps increasing, now is the perfect time to sign up for Auto-Pay and go paperless with E-Statement! Both you and your Coop will save on postage when mailing the bill, and we will give you a one-time bill credit of \$20. The best part about signing up for both services is that you never have to leave home to pay your bill or worry about being late. If you only sign up for one of these services, we'll still give you a one-time \$10 bill credit.

When you sign up for Auto-Pay, your monthly bill amount is deducted from your account. If you pay using your checking account, you can choose to have it deducted on either the 10th or the 17th of the month. If you pay with a credit or debit card, you can select the date from the 1st to the 17th of the month. Call 1.800.417.8667 to sign up.

When you sign up for E-Statement and go paperless, ITC will notify you via email that your bill is ready each month. You can log in to see the information, save it, or print it if you want a paper record. To go paperless, sign in to www.itcebill.com/estatement/login and follow these instructions:

1. Log in to E-Statement.
2. Go to "Settings" & click the "General" tab.
3. Under "Invoice Preference," choose "Web Bill Only."
4. Then click "Change Preference."

Do you like the ease of an app? ITC has just the app for you! The ITC eBill mobile app is a simple way to pay your bill! To get started, search "ITC eBill" in the App Store for Apple devices or Google Play for Android devices. Once downloaded on your device, you can log in using your existing bill pay website credentials. It's that easy!

For questions on E-Statement, Auto-Pay, or the ITC eBill app, please call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.

ITC ANNUAL MEETING

Please mark your calendar for the ITC Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 10, starting at 4:00 PM. Registration will begin at 4:00 PM, with dinner to follow around 5:00 PM. ITC will give away 20 - \$50 bills and a couple of larger prizes!

We look forward to seeing you at the ITC Annual Meeting!

ITC PAYS GROSS RECEIPTS TAXES

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. will be paying the 2024 Gross Receipts Taxes of \$962,690.24. These taxes are due before August 1. Gross Receipts Taxes are paid to the State of South Dakota. The state will then disperse them to the appropriate school districts. No Gross Receipts Taxes are paid in the state of Minnesota. Real Estate Taxes are paid instead, with this year's amount totaling \$1,442.00. The Minnesota taxes were paid this past March.