

THINKING ABOUT UPGRADING YOUR WI-FI?

Use this checklist to identify the real bottleneck before buying new access points.

IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM !	CHECK DEVICES !	CHECK INTERNET !	CHECK SWITCHES !	CHECK CABLING !	CHECK COVERAGE !	CHOOSE THE STANDARD
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REQUIREMENT

- ☐ Define the business problem — what is not working?
- ☐ Record user complaints and affected locations
- ☐ Identify high-demand applications and workloads
- ☐ Define the expected network lifespan

CLIENT DEVICES

- ☐ Inventory laptops — record Wi-Fi generation and 6 GHz support
- ☐ Inventory phones and tablets
- ☐ Record which devices support Wi-Fi 7 or Wi-Fi 6E
- ☐ When will devices be replaced? Will replacements support Wi-Fi 7?

WIRED NETWORK

- ☐ Record switch models and port speeds
- ☐ Check for multi-gigabit (2.5 GbE or faster) ports
- ☐ Check PoE standard and total PoE budget
- ☐ Check uplink capacity between switches

WIRELESS DESIGN

- ☐ Review access-point positions — survey before upgrading
- ☐ Review wall construction and signal propagation
- ☐ Consider whether 6 GHz requires additional AP density
- ☐ Review interference sources and channel utilisation

DECISION

- ☐ Fix existing design problems before choosing a standard
- ☐ Compare Wi-Fi 6, Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7 against requirements
- ☐ Calculate total upgrade cost — AP, switch, cabling, PoE
- ☐ Confirm client benefit — how many devices support Wi-Fi 7?
- ☐ Agree replacement lifecycle and next review date

CURRENT WI-FI

- ☐ Record access-point models and Wi-Fi generation
- ☐ Review wireless coverage — are there known gaps?
- ☐ Review congestion — does performance drop when busy?
- ☐ Review firmware — is it current and supported?

INTERNET

- ☐ Record contracted broadband or leased-line speed
- ☐ Test actual WAN performance — is it the bottleneck?
- ☐ Check firewall throughput — can it pass multi-gigabit traffic?

CABLING

- ☐ Identify cable category (Cat 5e, Cat 6, Cat 6A)
- ☐ Test any cable runs expected to carry 2.5 GbE or faster
- ☐ Do not replace working cabling without testing it first

SECURITY

- ☐ Confirm WPA3 support on planned AP and key clients
- ☐ Verify guest network is correctly isolated (VLAN)
- ☐ Confirm IoT devices are on a separate SSID and VLAN
- ☐ Confirm management access is protected and restricted
- ☐ Confirm firmware update process is defined

DO NOT TROUBLESHOOT YOUR NETWORK WITH A CREDIT CARD

A faster access point cannot fix a slow internet circuit, poor cabling or bad wireless design.

itclub.work/intelligence/wifi-7-business-upgrade-guide | English Technology Guidance for Business Owners — itclub.work | Last checked: 7 August 2026