



DOES YOUR BUSINESS WIFI NETWORK NEED AN UPGRADE?

Many small or medium-size businesses start off with consumer-grade WiFi networks at the center of their operations. But there comes a time when an upgrade is necessary.

Here are 6 reasons why upgrading to professional WiFi will add value to your business:

1. YOUR BUSINESS DEPENDS ON A HIGH-FUNCTIONING WIRELESS NETWORK

If you are like most businesses, an increasing number of wireless devices are competing for your network's resources at any given moment. This increase in traffic results in slower WiFi speeds, longer page loading times, more drops and disconnects, and an overall decrease in functionality. If you can't access critical data during an important customer meeting, or your screen freezes during peak hours, or your video-conferencing connection is less than ideal, it is time to step into the big leagues. Upgrading your wireless network will make your Internet work faster, have fewer drops or disconnects, and increase the range of your network WiFi.

2. YOUR COMPANY IS GROWING, BUT THE WIRELESS NETWORK ISN'T

If your company has been blessed with growth – whether in operations or headcount -- it may be time to scale up your wireless network's capabilities as well. More staff means more devices, and more activities mean more networked systems. Upgrading your wireless network will allow you to scale quickly by increasing bandwidth and will support the business as its needs change.

3. YOU TAKE SECURITY CONCERNS SERIOUSLY

It's no secret that cyberattacks are on the rise.. While only the big names make the evening news, hackers are more than happy to inject their malicious code into small and medium-size networks too – especially if they are vulnerable and unsecured. If your firmware is more than a few years old, it's likely that it is no longer supported by the vendor. By upgrading your network, you gain access to current security protocols with robust encryption algorithms to protect your business from advanced hacking and the dreaded ransomware attacks.

4. YOU HAVE SMART DEVICES THAT USE THE INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT)

According to Business Insider, there will be more than 64 billion IoT devices by 2025. Chances are that some of these connected devices can be found within your enterprise. Whether it is your facility's surveillance system, office printer, inventory management system, HVAC system, or even your coffee machine, each of these devices requires a reliable WiFi signal. Upgrading your network enables you to dedicate bandwidth to specific devices, ensuring your business can continue running seamlessly.

5. YOUR BUSINESS RELIES ON SAAS AND CLOUD APPLICATIONS

Did you know that 60% of the world's corporate data is stored in the cloud, and that 90% of large enterprises have adopted a multi-cloud infrastructure? That's because businesses have more remote workers than ever before and have come to rely on web-based tools for everyday tasks across nearly every department. Upgrading your wireless infrastructure ensures that your staff can access critical business data – no matter what device they are on.

6. YOUR BUSINESS SERVES CUSTOMERS

Offering free WiFi to customers has been proven to drive ROI and is good business practice. However, offering a free service isn't enough – the WiFi must be fast and secure. A slow connection will frustrate your customers, and might be worse than not offering them access in the first place. Upgrading your wireless network will allow you to account for the bandwidth your customers need, enable you to separate your employee and customer access points for tighter business security, and ensure your customers' data isn't compromised (a legal headache for you).

If you are not sure whether your enterprise can benefit from an upgrade, the first step is to conduct a site survey. A professional site survey will detect if your facility has any dead spots, hardware issues, or other infrastructure or configuration issues affecting your wireless network performance.