

Use WiFi?

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1 introduction

There are many pros and cons of using WiFi, some regarding security aspects, some about technological aspects and few more. Reasoning if you should use it can be divided into two categories, first, wheather you as individual person should use WiFi considering all aspects of its usage and as second, if you should offer usage of WiFi, either in company, restaurant etc. Thus I will discuss these two dirrefent points of view, because both are relevant and motivation for both can differ quiet a lot.

2 Should you use wifi as individual person?

2.1 Why you should

- + easy setup and accesibility
- + some devices cannot connect in any other way (cell phones)

2.2 Why you should not

- easy eavesdropping
- significant speed lost

2.3 summary

With all main pros and cons of WiFi usage, it is fine to use it, but we have to bear in mind important advantages of wired connection. From user point of view, mainly significant speed diference, but there are more important issues than that. Mainly regarding security. WiFi communication can be very easily eavesdropped from practicly anywhere near, not just drectly between acces point and computer. It is not much of a issue because today we mostly use encrypted connection for sensitive communication (ebanking, social networks ...) but you are never carefull enough. On the other hand, wired connection is much more harder to attack and stay unnoticed. There is one more possible fraud mostly on public hotspots, and that is fact, that you mostly do not see router directly, and when you do, you never know, who runs network, to which you are about to connect.

As mentioned before, there are devices, that cannot connect wired way, cell phones and many others. There is almost no choice, on one hand WiFi

and on the other GSM. Both standards not perfect, so it probably doesn't matter which one you use, as long as you use appropriate encryption.

In conclusion, if you have possibility of wired connection, you should forget about WiFi, when you have to use WiFi, you should make sure you use encrypted connection and stay clear of most sensitive information (banking ...) especially on public hotspots.

3 Should you offer WiFi?

3.1 Why you should

- + convenient for customers, employees ...
- + setup easier than cable to each workplace
- + less probable occurrence of rogue access points

3.2 Why you should not

- additional costs for hardware
- WiFi provides more feasible unauthorized access to network
- more communication load for whole network

3.3 summary

To somehow sum this up. If you enable use of WiFi, you can prevent some malicious behaviour, because you have control over network. Providing usable access over WiFi will prevent existence of rogue access points, and also will provide access to internet for all devices, that does not have possibility of wired connection. You have to take in to account, that this will cause more load for whole network, since one person has usually one computer connected with wire, but possibly more WiFi connected devices (smartphone, tablet etc.).

That all said, today it is expected, that WiFi will be available. Yes, it provides possibilities for unauthorized access and WiFi is not perfect, but as long as you have power to control and monitor it, you have chance to make it secure to use.