How to Set up a Guest WiFi Network

A guest network allows your visitors to connect to your Wi-Fi router without granting access to any computers, phones, or smart home devices that are connected to your main home network. Here are 2 easy ways to set up a guest network.

Method 1 - Create a guest Wi-Fi network via the router or ISP app

Most new routers, including those provided by ISPs like AT&T, CenturyLink, Verizon Fios and Xfinity, feature an app that lets you access and manage your Wi-Fi network. Such apps enable you to see connected devices, set parental controls and, what you came here for, create a guest network.

Each provider or router app will look a little different, but the option to create a guest Wi-Fi network should be relatively easy to find. Once you've reached the guest Wi-Fi settings, enter your desired network name and password and apply the changes. Your new guest network should now be ready for use.

Your guests can connect to the new network the same as they would any other Wi-Fi network: by selecting it from their device's list of available nearby networks and entering the password. And if that isn't easy enough, or you don't feel like repeating the password every time someone new shows up, some apps enable you to print a QR code. That means you can stick the "password" to your fridge for guests to scan at their convenience.

Method 2 - Create a guest Wi-Fi network via a browser

Start by entering your router's IP address into your preferred browser. You can find your IP address on PC and Android devices under the Wi-Fi settings or on Mac devices by clicking the Wi-Fi symbol and selecting Open Network Preferences.

Next, you'll need to enter your router credentials to gain access to the admin settings. You can often find this information somewhere on your router, possibly on the bottom (https://example.com/here's what to do if you can't find your router login info and password).

Once you're logged in, look for guest Wi-Fi settings. If you can't find it right away, check under Wireless Settings, Network Settings, or something similar. This is where you'll enable a guest Wi-Fi network if necessary and create your settings.

Enter your desired network name and password, then save your new settings. Your new network should be ready for use.

Note that not all routers are equipped with the ability to create a guest Wi-Fi network. If you can't find the guest network settings, either on an app or when accessing the router settings on your computer, it's possible that there is no guest network option available.

If you need more help, contact your internet service provider.