

# Understanding Wi-Fi and Hotspots

## What is Wi-Fi?


“Wi-Fi” and “Internet” are often used interchangeably. **Wi-Fi** is a wireless connection to the Internet. Almost all new devices are equipped to connect to the Internet through Wi-Fi.

## Understanding Wi-Fi Access At Home

For many families, access to the Internet is purchased through a company (i.e., Comcast or Verizon) and billed monthly, much like cable television.

After signing up for Internet service, families either rent (from the service company) or purchase a **router** and a **modem**. These two gadgets work together to connect your devices (i.e., computers, tablets, etc.) to the Internet.

## How Do I Connect to the Internet?

1. Go to your device’s settings - usually a crankshaft icon 
2. Tap **Wireless** or **Wi-Fi**. A list of nearby networks will appear.
3. Tap the network you wish to connect.
4. If the network requires a password, you will be prompted to type it in before the device connects.

Voila! You are connected to the Internet.

## What is a Mobile Hotspot?

A portable gadget that allows nearby Wi-Fi devices (i.e., laptop, iPad/iPhone, Android) to connect to the Internet.

Mobile hotspots work anywhere there is 3G or 4G coverage.

To connect to a mobile hotspot, you will follow the **same steps** as connecting to any other wireless network.

### DID YOU KNOW?

You can check out a hotspot using your library card!  
See the front desk for more information.