

Mashable | The Social Media Guide

About 23 hours ago [Stan Schroeder](#) 19

Wi-Fi at 60 GHz Will Be 10 Times Faster

The Wi-Fi Alliance and the Wireless Gigabit Alliance have [reached an agreement](#) to set up standards for Wi-Fi to operate in the previously unclaimed 60 GHz frequency band, which would offer up to 10 times faster data transfer speeds. Currently, Wi-Fi operates in the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz frequency bands.

"The 60-GHz band allows for significant boost in performance, so we are talking about speeds in the gigabits per second range," says the executive director of the Wi-Fi Alliance, Edgar Figueroa.

Unfortunately, the new standard would come with severe drawbacks; Wi-Fi signal operating in the 60 GHz band would not be able to penetrate walls; one would need to have line of sight for a decent connection. However, the increase in speed is so significant that the trade-off would definitely be worth it in certain situations.

It's not going to happen overnight, though. After the standard is set, consumers will want routers and wireless adapters that can switch between two or all three (2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 60 GHz) Wi-Fi frequency bands. Figueroa estimates that these will be available on the market in about two years.

Image courtesy of [iStockphoto](#) , [alexsl](#).



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[ratnushock](#) 22 hours ago

No wall trespassing equals FAIL.

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[Howie at Sky Pulse Media](#) 22 hours ago

1 person liked this.

The minute you said can't penetrate walls you lost it for mobile computing. So your saying we need a transmitter in every single room? Absolutely ridiculous. The solution is beefing up the Cell Networks or some other signal that can go through walls. That doesn't mean devices can't have little transmitter/receivers in them so electronics can talk to each other. But do we need 60GHz for my coffee maker?

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Stan_Schroeder 22 hours ago [in reply to Howie at Sky Pulse Media](#)

Well, it's great if you want set up a network with your neighbor accross the streat (presuming you have line of sight, i.e. no trees or other obstacles in

between). Presuming that the routers and other equipment will become 3-band (will work on all three frequencies), it can't hurt.

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[Mike Amicarelli](#) 22 hours ago

Won't go over well without wall penetration. I'd rather use wireless-N in that case.

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kerrytolps 3 hours ago [in reply to Mike Amicarelli](#)

Just wait when the [google isp arrives](#)... and let's see how this one plays out.

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[Henry M. Lopez](#) 22 hours ago

2 people liked this.

Wow, talk about one step forward and two back. But I could see in a library, retail environment or conference space where this would be great. But at home, general usage seems like a no-go.

Then again, who needs walls? I've been looking to swing a sledge hammer and turning my home into a big loft might have some advantages - just not sure at the moment what they are.

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[facebook-1564335968](#) 22 hours ago

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No point in getting excited about it now. I'd rather live with the speed I have now... at least my signal follows me wherever I go, through walls, floors etc... if it didn't what would be the point? Might as well be hooked up to cable and stuck in one spot.

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[walidmrealtor](#) 21 hours ago [in reply to facebook-1564335968](#)

1 person liked this.

My thoughts exactly...I agree with Howie (above) as well...the second I read "won't go through walls" you lost me as a consumer.

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[Sex Toys Guru](#) 21 hours ago

So a more powerful Wi-Fi reduces its ability to go through walls? If you need to have a direct connection, a la *line of site* it's hardly any different than a wired connection and just walking around with the ethernet cable.

However seeing that they mentioned a multi-band system that would alleviate the issue almost entirely, much like how a 3G network downgrades depending on available coverage.

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[WVMikeP](#) 21 hours ago

My issue isn't speed, but rather the poor performance through walls & floors. Fixing that will give us more performance mileage for our money.

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[carlomedina](#) 21 hours ago

This is potentially beneficial to those single-room stores that provide WiFi. This'll give them increased protection from unauthorized access from the outside.

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Augure 19 hours ago

1 person liked this.

Sorry but Wifi 60 ghz what for ?

Internet speed has not evolved in years now, and the reason is not technology...

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[Jennifer A. Ray](#) 18 hours ago

1 person liked this.

In my world, there is no use for a WiFi protocol that cannot go through walls.

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[Universal Indie Records](#) 17 hours ago

This is DOA if it can't go through walls. They'd probably try to charge us for this extra speed as well.

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[JRM Raul](#) 17 hours ago

No wall-penetration signal = I'm not interested

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