

THE NetworkGuy

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Learn from The Network Guy

Why does my wireless router have two ranges, 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz and which should I use?

The Network Guy:

Both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz have their advantages and disadvantages, so it really depends on your situation. The advantage of a 2.4 GHz is that it has a farther range and can penetrate solid objects better. However, it's more vulnerable to interference. That's because so many other devices use the same band. It's also slower than the 5 GHz.

The 5 GHz band has a shorter range compared to a 2.4 GHz band, since, in radio frequencies, the higher the frequency the shorter its range. In other words, if you are using a lower frequency like the 2.4 GHz, the distance it will cover will be greater than the 5 GHz band. But the advantage of 5 GHz is that it has a higher transfer speed and it's less vulnerable to interference from other common household appliances and devices.

The simple answer? If you're experiencing trouble, sometimes just changing to the other channel will fix the problem!

Productivity App: LastPass

If you're tired of remembering passwords, you might consider LastPass. LastPass stores an unlimited number of passwords so you can save and autofill. In addition, it can store your digital records and notes. You'll find the details for both personal and business use at www.lastpass.com.

LastPass...

Would You Like to Clean Up Your Computer?

There are software programs that can help clean up your computer.

They can scan and delete useless files and free up space. Although these aren't always necessary, we asked some of our own employees what software they choose when it is needed. Some of the most mentioned free options are F-Secure at <https://www.f-secure.com/en/home/free-tools/online-scanner>, CCleaner (www.ccleaner.com), and MalwareBytes (www.malwarebytes.com).

The Network Guy Quiz Challenge

PenTeleData is giving one lucky winner a \$150 Amazon Gift Card. Just visit www.ptd.net/quiz-challenge by April 30, 2021 to answer the question below. We will select a winner at random from all correct entries. **Good Luck!**

Which range on a wireless router is less vulnerable to interference and has a higher transfer speed?



Top Free Antivirus

Antivirus Software

Are you using antivirus software? The best antivirus suites can provide parental precautions, protect your personal data, manage passwords, optimize your computer's performance, monitor your firewall, and back up your file, but the best of these usually comes at a cost. What if you simply want your computer protected from malware without having to pay for it? Well, according to tomguide.com, these are the 2021 top five picks for a free antivirus program:

1. Kaspersky Security Cloud Free
2. Bitdefender Antivirus Free Edition
3. Windows Defender Antivirus
4. Avast Free Antivirus
5. AVG AntiVirus Free

Top Ad Blockers

Do You Need an Ad Blocker?

The best ad blockers and privacy extensions aim to improve your web experience by putting a stop to those annoying pop-ups that overtake your browsing. Are you still getting lots of pop-up ads when you search the web? Luckily, most web browsers have come a long way and now include the option to stop these annoying ads. Antivirus programs also offer them as part of their security suite. Still, if you really want or need another, some of the most common options are **AdBlock** (www.getadblock.com), **Ghostery** (www.ghostery.com), and **uBlock** (<https://github.com/gorhill/uBlock>).

Please note, not all ad blockers are compatible with all browsers. Details about these and others are available from each specific software provider.

Online Safety Rules

Most of us rely heavily on the Internet to enjoy social media, online education, remote work, and all sorts of entertainment, so it's especially important to know a few online safety rules.

1. Don't share personal or sensitive information.
2. Check the reliability of the websites you visit.
3. Protect your accounts using strong passwords and two-factor authentication.
4. Don't click suspicious links or attachments.
5. Use antivirus software and keep your device software and applications up-to-date to avoid security flaws.
6. Use public Wi-Fi cautiously.
7. Double check the reliability of information you read online.
8. Use VPN to hide your online activity.
9. Understand your digital footprint and be sure your family understands too.
10. Be aware of phishing.

"Heroes are made by the path they choose, not the powers they are graced with."

- Iron Man

April Fool's Day

April Fool's Day is a tradition that is more than 500 years old, a day of pranks that never seems to get old. Here are a few oldies, but goodie pranks published by CNBC a few years ago:

Netflix

Netflix said it's latest acquisition had been Seth Rogen. No not a movie on him, or a new TV series produced by him or his latest movie: The company said it bought his "personal autonomy."

Google

The tech company traditionally goes big on April Fool's Day. One year, its Chromebooks got a renewable energy upgrade — simply take your computer outside to charge the devices via wind, solar or compost. You could also find Waldo on Google Maps. The Files Go team created a bad joke detector app that would scan your smartphone for all horrible jokes sent to you and automatically delete them.

Meanwhile, Google Australia renamed itself "Googz." Google Israel determined people's preference for hummus with its Cloud Hummus API.

Google Japan created a physical version of the company's virtual keyboard, Gboard.

Roku

The company showed off Happy Streaming socks that let you control your device by swiping your foot or wiggling your toes. The gag may have been a nod to Netflix's real Netflix socks, a do-it-yourself project for connected socks that pauses your show when it detects you've stayed still for a long period of time.

Adobe

Adobe Illustrator joked about a new feature where you drag an image of a food item to a special toolbar. Adobe then used machine learning and AI to find places in your area where you can order that exact dish.

23 and Me/Lexus

"Genetic Select" paired 23 and Me's genetic sequencing and Lexus' car features to find a car that suited its driver. For example, if a person had a bald spot, the car wouldn't come with a sunroof. People with the genes for freckles would have had tinted windows. It also promised to be able to know what color, trim and horsepower a person would want in their car based on their DNA.

Roku SnackSuggest

Roku's streaming services claimed to come with snacking suggestions, "like fine wine and cheese pairings," according to the company. The sample suggestions were mutton, chicken wings and ale for *Game of Thrones*, garlic fries and red velvet cupcakes for *Vampire Diaries*, and so on.

Yahoo Redirect Virus

Perhaps it has happened to you.

Despite traditionally using Google or other search engines, your search engine continually switches to Yahoo.

If so, the computer is likely afflicted with malware, specifically the Yahoo redirect virus. It's worth noting that Yahoo is not to blame for the redirection. The malware has deposited the user onto Yahoo's site after quickly funneling through transitional domains, usually for profit or to collect data in the process. Manually resetting the browser's settings will sometimes stop the Yahoo redirect virus from obstructing the computer, but it will usually require a virus remover. If that doesn't work, or you need help, it's worth enlisting the help of an I.T. pro to remove the embedded code.