What is a router?

A router is a device that directs data traffic along specific routes. A router sends information, such as email and the content of web pages, between your computer and the network server. It also connects networks and acts as a filter at a ‘gateway’ between them, channelling information to the correct IP address, unique to each computer. A router is also the device that keeps single computers, or entire networks, connected to the internet.

A router can be connected to your computer by wires (or cables). However, more commonly these days, routers are wireless, allowing several wireless-enabled devices to access the internet at any one time and enabling users to use the devices in various locations within range of the router.

**Next steps**

What is a modem?

What is wifi?

What is bandwidth?

How to connect to wifi on a Windows phone

How to connect to wifi on an Android phone

How to connect to wifi on an iPhone

What is the internet?
Troubleshooting an internet connection problem

Free how-to guides for your website
Why not add our award-winning and extensive range of digital skills guides to your website?

Remote Digital Championing!
Guides covering some tips and techniques for providing remote support to learners, an increasingly important service in times of social isolation.

Start a Digital Champion movement!
Could your workplace do with developing its digital skills? With funded membership opportunities currently available, now is the perfect time for organisations to join our Digital Champions Network.
Subscribe to our newsletter

Join our mailing list to receive the latest news, offers and expert insights from our team.

First name

Last name

Email address

Submit