

# What is a router?

 [Print this guide](#)





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.

***Last update December 2022***

## Next steps

-  [What is a modem?](#)
-  [What is wifi?](#)
-  [What is bandwidth?](#)
-  [What is the internet?](#)

Want to help people learn Digital Skills?

[Find out about Digital Champions](#)