

Wireless Broadband: Is wireless broadband the same as Wi-Fi wireless?

No. Wireless broadband, sometimes known as mobile broadband, is a completely different technology to Wi-Fi.

Wireless broadband uses the mobile phone network to connect you to the internet and there are only three mobile phone networks in Australia. Telstra, Optus and Vodafone-Hutchinson. To use wireless broadband you require a 3G modem or a 3G smartphone. Both these devices need a SIM card from one of these carriers with a data service enabled on it. There are many branded SIM cards but all of them must use one of the three main carrier networks. We use the Optus 3G network for our service.

Wi-Fi provides access to a local network, normally in a house or business and has a short range from a few metres up to 50-100 metres. If the local network has internet access, then devices using Wi-Fi can also use the internet. Wi-Fi comes in different versions such as 802.11G and 802.11N as the manufacturers improve the range and performance of their Wi-Fi equipment.

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Author: Rod

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