



The Three Most Important Home Connectivity Trends for 2019

By Duncan Potter, SVP, Global Marketing, ARRIS

Technology is evolving in three exciting ways to anticipate our changing needs. 2019 will be the year of constant connectivity.

The future of home networking is constant connectivity. We're using more bandwidth, on more devices, in more places, more often. And technology is evolving in three exciting ways to anticipate our changing needs.....



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Wi-Fi your way

Wi-Fi is the air that we breathe. It gives life to the 13 connected devices that the average consumer has in their home*. And, just as our habits have evolved to create a need for fast and reliable connectivity in every corner of the house, our Wi-Fi is evolving to quicken and ease those connections.

Enter 802.11ax or 'Wi-Fi 6'. This next generation of the 802.11 standard promises multi-Gigabit speeds, incredible range, smarter device management and more efficient battery usage. It's a gamechanger for consumers who are pushing the limits of their connections with 4K, VR, streaming video and gaming, and always-on smart home devices. But for everyone, it means a faster, wider and more reliable connection— and that will be a relief for the 89% of consumers who believe high-speed broadband is important in every room of the house*.

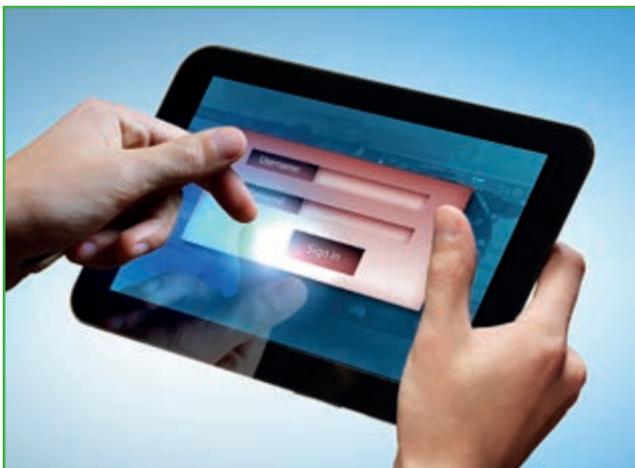
Added to that is a new standard for mesh networking called Wi-Fi EasyMesh™. It takes the convenience of combining multiple access points into a single, seamless Wi-Fi network, and makes it even more convenient by enabling consumers

“ **Consumers will be able to build a truly customised Wi-Fi network that extends to the outer reaches of their home.** ”

to mix and match mesh access points from different vendors. Consumers will be able to build a truly customised Wi-Fi network that extends to the outer reaches of their home.

Security, management and intelligence

As the home network evolves to be faster, broader and easier to use—consumers, understandably, are spending a lot more time on it across a broader range of activities. This carries important implications for security, management and intelligence.



58% of consumers suspect that having too many active devices on their Wi-Fi network is causing streaming and downloading issues*. And, indeed, the new management and intelligence capabilities in the latest networking technology allow service providers, consumers and even the devices themselves to address this increase in traffic across a variety of situations and demands. Decisions such as which devices are prioritised during peak streaming times, to which access point should each device connect and over which band etc. will all be automated and optimised in the background.

The proliferation of connected devices has also given rise to security concerns—especially with the growing popularity of smart home devices like live streaming security cameras, connected door locks and more. 51% of consumers believe that security is an imperative for the home network*. Thankfully, new Wi-Fi standards are more secure than ever, and more routers and extenders will incorporate security directly into

the access point—protecting devices on their network from viruses, malware, phishing and more. As the home network evolves, it will also be safer, smarter and more efficient.

The all-in-one smart media device

Our evolving media habits around the home have given rise to a new crop of connected devices—such as Bluetooth speakers, smart assistants and IoT hubs—that have quickly become indispensable. In the future, these devices will be combined into a single Smart Media Device.



In the same way that the smart phone has inherited the capabilities of a GPS, mobile computer, TV, hotspot, wallet and so much more—the set-top is evolving into a Smart Media Device that does much more than offer cable broadcasting. We will see it integrated with platforms such as RDK and Android to offer unique connected experiences that not only unite media sources such as broadcast, VoD, DV, and apps, but begin to enable functionality across a broader range of services such as IoT, TV and search.

In the coming year, technology will come together in exciting new ways that improve the way we watch TV, control our homes and connect our lives. We are already seeing important strides in creating a faster, simpler, safer and more seamless home network. 2019 will be the year of constant connectivity.



* Source: ARRIS 2018 Consumer Entertainment Survey