

## Broadband Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

**FTTH** Fiber To The Home – a service provider description where signals are transmitted to the customer through a fiber optic cable(s) from the providers facility all the way to the customers home or business.

**ONT** Optical Network Terminal – this is a device that converts light signals used in fiber optic cables into electrical signals that are transmitted through coaxial (cable) wires and Ethernet (CAT5, CAT5e, CAT6) cables throughout a home or business. ONT's can be outdoor or indoor depending on the installation requirements.



**Fiber Drop** – this is the individual fiber optic cable that leads from the distribution network running up and down the street to the home or business.

**Gig** Gigabit – in the broadband area this Gigabit Internet service transmits data up to 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) – or 1,000 megabits per second. With that rate of speed, you can download a full HD movie in just a few minutes, update your smartphone's operating system in seconds, and join video conferences with ultra-high definition video, just to name a few. This is not to be confused with data amounts traditionally found with cellular data plans.

**SSID** Service Set Identifier - this is the name of your wireless network. Networks can be visible to the public or hidden. They are set by default with the wireless router or can be defined by the user with appropriate administration rights.

**LAN** Local Area Network – this is the network within your home. This includes both wired and wireless connection to your router.

**WLAN** Wireless Local Area Network – this is the Wifi network within your home.

**2.4GHz, 5GHz** gigahertz - is the radio frequency at which wireless signals from the wireless router operate.

**WiFi Extender vs. AP Access Point** – a wireless extender picks up the existing wireless signal and rebroadcast using available bandwidth. An access point is a wired connection that acts as an additional antenna for the central wireless router.

**Mesh Network** – this is a WLAN configuration that provide multiple sources of Wifi signal with a single SSID. This is accomplished using a combination of wireless router and access points.

**Network Switch, Managed or Unmanaged** – a device that takes a single point of internet access and splits the signal to allow multiple cable and devices to us the existing signal. Managed switches allow a user with admin rights to set conditions and monitor statuses of the traffic flowing through the LAN. Unmanaged switches allow a single source of internet traffic to be split for multiple devices, but do not provide any conditional sets or traffic to be monitored.





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**MAC Address** Media Access Control – this is a number made up of 12 alpha numeric characters. Each device that connects to a network is identified using a MAC address.

**MoCa** – this is a limited network that allows internet signal to be transmitted through coaxial cable.

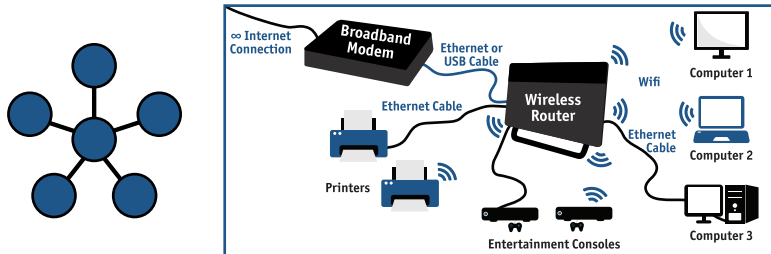
**CAT5, CAT5e, CAT6** – twisted pair cable that when properly installed transmits internet traffic from device to device. Speed and capacities are increased through CAT5 – CAT5e – CAT6. All forms of Ethernet cable can be different colors and thicknesses. Cables can also be outdoor rated, indoor only, UV protected, and other configurations.

**Jack** – this refers to the plug installed in the wall where either coaxial (cable TV) lines or CAT 5, 5e, 6 (Ethernet) lines are terminated.

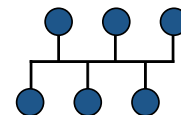


**Network Architecture** – this refers to how the cables in a dwelling (residential or commercial) are connected.

**Star Architecture** – is where each individual run originates at a single point. This is utilized with Ethernet LANs.



**Bus Network** – is where cables are connected using a system of splits. This is often utilized in coaxial (cable TV) networks.



**“Daisy Chain” Network** – this describes how electrical outlets are connected. Each outlet usually feeds an additional outlet. While this is a desirable method for electrical wiring, this does NOT accommodate Ethernet or coaxial networks.