Wireless Networking

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Long gone are the days of wired networking to connect to the internet using dial-up. My was one of the last towns in the area to make the jump to high speed internet. These days I use wifi for just about all my devices except my Xbox one. Connecting a cable directly from the modem allows for faster download speeds. Setting up a wifi connection is easier and easier these days with all sorts of features you can add so your neighbor does not steal your connection. There are downsides to using wireless as well. Also, there have been many developments over the last five years that have impacted networking.

The first thing you have to do is sign up with an internet service provider. They will give you options as to what speeds you can run your internet on. Generally, the more devices you have o your network the faster speed you want to have as they all share that same connection. The company will then give you a modem to connect to the service. You have the option of connecting wirelessly or via Ethernet cord. Ethernet cords only stretch so far and are only good for devices directly near the modem. The connect, though, is way more secure than with a wireless connection. Sometimes companies will use Ethernet cords to ensure their data isn’t being spied upon. Ethernet setups are also used for small network setups like ring topologies to connect multiple computers to a network (Dean, 2013, p.53).

I once worked from home for a web hosting company and my boss appreciated I had a wired connection because it would protect information on the vast network they had. It was a long cord, but at least all the transmissions I was doing were very secure. I also noticed that when I hook my Xbox one up with an Ethernet cord, games download much faster and receive a better connection. Wifi typically goes in and out depending on the connection. Also, with Ethernet cords, no one can share your connection unless they are also connected via Ethernet.

Bluetooth is another wireless technology that is becoming more popular. “Bluetooth is a telecommunications wireless technology standard that specifies how mobile phones, computers, and personal digital assistants are implemented and interconnected using a short-range wireless connection” (AIU Online, 2013). Cell phones and tablets now come with Bluetooth technology. Driving is much safer with this too. With Bluetooth, you can drive hands free and talk at the same time.

Within the last 5 years, there have been a lot of improvements to wireless technology. Companies are able to offer us faster speeds at lower costs and the internet is finally affordable to the average household. Streaming movies and TV shows is now a breeze and gaming online is so much better with a faster connection.

Works Cited

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