

In short, without the Internet, your business may come to a standstill.

For that reason, it's a good idea to provide not just one connection to the Internet, but two. You can then configure your firewall router to automatically switch to the backup Internet circuit if your primary connection fails. This capability is called *failover*, and it's available in most dedicated firewall router devices. (Note that failover is usually available on residential gateways, commonly known as Wi-Fi routers.)



TIP

In most cases, you can get away with a slower Internet connection to use as your backup connection. For example, if your primary Internet connection is a 1 Gbps fiber connection, you could use a 100 Mbps cable connection for your backup. If your primary circuit goes down, performance will be noticeably slower, but at least you'll still be connected.

When selecting a backup Internet connection, it's usually a good idea to use a different provider than the company that provides your primary connection. That way, if a system-wide outage occurs at your primary connection's provider, the outage is less likely to affect your backup connection.

One common scenario is to use cellular service for your backup connection. A company called CradlePoint ([www.cradlepoint.com](http://www.cradlepoint.com)) provides several devices designed specifically for this purpose. For example, CradlePoint's AER1600 devices include the following:

- » Five Ethernet ports, each of which can be configured for Internet connections (WAN) or internal connections (LAN).
- » Two LTE cellular modems to connect to a cell provider. All you need to do is provide a SIM card for your provider of choice. (If you want, you can provide two SIM cards to provide two backup cell providers.)

Many options are available for providing a backup Internet circuit. None is without cost, but compare that cost with the cost of being without an Internet connection altogether. For most businesses, it's worth a small additional expenditure per month to ensure that the Internet is always available.