

Modem vs Router

Monday, January 26, 2026 9:21 PM

A **modem** is what brings the internet into your home or business. It connects you to your internet service provider and translates internet signals into a format your computer can understand, and vice versa. This is why it's called a "modulator-demodulator." Common types include cable modems and DSL modems.

A **router** then takes that internet connection from the modem and shares it with all the devices in your home or business, like computers, tablets, and phones. It routes the internet to these devices. Most home routers have ports for wired connections and also provide Wi-Fi for wireless devices. You only need a router if you have multiple devices that need to access the internet.

Often, internet providers give you a combined modem and router device. Also, most routers have a built-in switch, so you usually only need a separate switch if you need more wired connections than your router offers

