TECH LINK

What is Your Device Count?

Have you ever thought about how many devices your household has connected to the internet at any given time? Five or six? Ten or twelve? The actual number may surprise you. According to a recent Deloitte report, the average U.S. household has 25 internet-connected devices. That is more than double the number of devices in 2019! While this major increase in devices in the last two years is attributed mainly to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number is expected to continue to grow to 32 devices by the year 2025.

Why is it important to know how many devices you have connected in your home? Because, the number of connected devices ultimately affects your internet speed and experience. When we refer to internet speed, we really mean bandwidth or capacity your connection has. Bandwidth is the amount of data that can be transferred over an internet connection in one second. It is important to understand that bandwidth is a fixed number for each internet connection. All the internet-connected devices in your home will share your bandwidth which means the more devices you have connected at the same time, the more minimum bandwidth required. Otherwise, if not enough bandwidth is available, you will experience slower internet speed for all of your devices.

As you can see, it is important to identify exactly how many devices are connected to the internet in your home. And, just because a device is not being used, it can still be connected and using your bandwidth. Below is a list of just some of the more commonly connected devices in homes today. You can use this checklist to determine exactly how many connected devices you have in your home. Once you have taken inventory of all your connected devices, take your internet speed and divide it by that number of connected devices to see how much speed each one is getting. Remember this is a rough estimate, but it can give you an idea of whether you need to consider upgrading your internet speed to accommodate all of the devices in your home.

For example, if you have 85 Mbps internet speed and you have 20 devices in your home, each device is getting roughly 4.25 Mbps. While that may sound adequate, it may not be enough bandwidth for certain online activities such as gaming or streaming TV (a Netflix show in HD requires at least 5 Mbps).

Connected Devices Checklist

☑ Robot Vacuum
☑ Garage Opener
☐ Key Pad
☑ Video Doorbell
☑ Smart Lights
☐ Smart Refrigerator
☐ Smart Washer or Dryer
☐ Smart Locks
☐ Water Detection Sensor
☑ Smart Watch/Activity tracker
☑ Smart TV
☑ Alexa/Echo Devices
☑ Kindle/E-Reader
☑ Streaming Devices

☑ Security Cameras
☑ Tablet/iPad
☑ Smartphone
☐ Smart Thermostat
☑ Baby Monitor
☐ Gaming Systems
☐ Laptop
☐ Secu...
☐ Smart Air ...
☐ Bluetooth Speaker
☐ Wireless Printer

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