

How to bridge fiber optic cables with a router



Article Overview

You cannot connect a fiber optic cable directly to a standard router; you need an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) or a fiber media converter to bridge the fiber signal to your router.

Key Components

- **Optical Network Terminal (ONT):** This device converts the optical signal from the fiber into an electrical signal that your router can understand. It is typically provided by your ISP and installed near the fiber entry point in your home or office .
- **Fiber Media Converter:** In cases where you need to extend fiber over long distances or integrate it with Ethernet networks, a fiber media converter can convert fiber signals to Ethernet and vice versa .
- **Router:** A standard router connects to the ONT or media converter via an Ethernet cable, usually through the WAN port, to distribute internet to your devices .
- **Cables:** Fiber optic cables (single-mode or multi-mode depending on your setup) connect to the ONT or media converter, and Ethernet cables (Cat5e or higher) link the ONT/converter to the router .

Step-by-Step Setup

- **Install the ONT or Media Converter:** Connect the incoming fiber optic cable to the ONT's optical port or the media converter's TX/RX ports. Ensure the device is powered and placed in a dry, ventilated area near an electrical outlet .
- **Connect to the Router:** Use an Ethernet cable to link the ONT's LAN port or the media converter's Ethernet port to the router's WAN port. This allows the router to r...

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