

Whats New With WiFi?

WiFi Alliance Has New WiFi Naming Structure

The WiFi Alliance recently released a marketing program with new consumer-friendly naming convention to generations of WiFi, based upon major WiFi technology (PHY) releases. WiFi generation names provide manufacturers, operators, and end users with an easy to understand description for both the WiFi technology contained in a device and the connection that device makes with a WiFi network.

1) Generational WiFi is a marketing program. Names can be used by members, non-members, anyone

2) Match PHY advancements to 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz frequencies only

3) 802.11ax -> WiFi 6 | 802.11ac -> WiFi 5 | 802.11n -> WiFi 4

Generations of WiFi prior to WiFi 4 will not be assigned names

4) Generation names shall not have versions. For example WiFi 5.1 or Wave 2 WiFi 5

5) Generation name shall not be used in any logo design and only be referenced in text form

6) If technology represents more than one generation, the device shall be identified by most advanced technology

EX: If device supports 802.11 2.4 GHz and 802.11ac 5 GHz, it shall be referred to as WiFi 5

7) Generation names on product packaging and as part of product name is allowed.

EX: "Linksys WiFi 6 Access Point"

8) User generation of WiFi connection between device and a network

9) Service provider can adopt generation names to identify capability of network

EX: "Panera Bread features WiFi 6 connections"

10) User interface visual goal is to get away from signal bars / strength indicating better experience and instead have it based on generation of connection

11) WiFi Alliance provided UI visuals examples, where manufacturers and OS vendors can implement their own custom UI visuals to indicate generation of connection

12) Beginning with WiFi 6, new certification program for PHY releases in 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz.

EX: WiFi 6 technology will be marketed as "WiFi CERTIFIED 6"

13) Certified logo program will include generational name and not PHY rate