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# Business-grade Wi-Fi made simple for small business



When you first opened your doors, you needed to get your small business online as quickly and cost-effectively as possible. Your basic internet service plan probably included a wireless router that connected a few computers to the Internet. That simple setup was enough to get your employees communicating with clients and partners, and it supported your business well enough—at first.

But simply having an online presence, sending and receiving email, is no longer enough as you expand and compete in today's mobile environment. Small business owners are increasingly using smart phones and tablets for business purposes, and beginning to embrace technologies like mobile, cloud and collaboration applications to increase business efficiency and customer engagement.

Small businesses and their employees need secure and reliable access to business apps at the highest speeds and quality possible, regardless of whether they are in their shop or working with a client, or which device they are using.

Recent studies show that 69% of small businesses that invest in technology are managing their costs better, and are more efficient and productive.<sup>1</sup> They run a significant portion of their business online. Nearly half (43%) of small business owners use a smartphone as the primary device to run their operations, where 65% are conducting back office work including bookkeeping and accounting on cloud-based apps.<sup>2</sup>

Mobile payment methods like Square allow small businesses to accept credit cards and process gift cards with a free reader that works with an app on smartphones and tablets.<sup>3</sup> This helps attract more clients and facilitates faster payment—but this now means they need to ensure a secure network environment for both parties during these transactions.

Mobility also gives customers clear reasons for coming back. Customers expect to stay connected while they wait and will quickly find their way to businesses that offer free Wi-Fi. So providing secure Wi-Fi access for customers and guests makes good business sense.

# From basics to business

Running advanced business software and allowing employees to use their mobile devices may be good for your small company's bottom line, but it might wreak havoc on your existing network. Consumer-grade networks can give you serious technical headaches, especially as you move to mobile and cloud-based applications.

The most immediate issue—and the most painful for your employees—is the inconsistent performance of a small network bogged down by too much data. The user experience degrades as you increase the number of users hitting the network with additional mobile devices.

Security threats can also disrupt the normal flow of your day-to-day business operations. Consumer-grade networks can leave large gaps in your network security. Business-grade wireless networks offer separate and secure guest access and more extensive built-in security features than their consumer counterparts, better protecting your network from online attacks and viruses.

These may seem like insurmountable technical issues if you don't have in-house IT resources. But there is a solution. To upgrade to a fast and reliable business-grade Wi-Fi network, you need a wireless solution that is designed for the small business: easy to setup and manage with advanced security at a price tag that fits your budget.

<sup>1</sup> 2016 US SMB Cluster Analysis Update, IDC, Ray Boggs, February 2017

<sup>2</sup> eBook: <u>The Appification of Small</u> <u>Business</u>, Intuit Developer, April 2015

<sup>3</sup>Why small businesses are going all in on tablet adoption, BizTech Magazine, March 2017

## Solution

HPE OfficeConnect solutions help you do more with less—enabling you to share resources and collaborate without the complexity of setting up an enterprise-grade network. OfficeConnect products are simple to manage, affordable and highly reliable for small businesses with no dedicated IT expertise and resources. Whether you're just starting out or planning to expand your business, OfficeConnect offers a wide range of wired and wireless solutions to support your small business needs at each stage of your growth.

### Ready-to-go Wi-Fi for the non-technical user

HPE OfficeConnect OC20 access points offer small businesses an intuitive and business-grade wireless solution that is easy to set-up and manage without technical expertise. By using the OfficeConnect iOS or Android application, you can get your network up and running within minutes—and monitor your network remotely, no matter where you are.

OfficeConnect access points (APs) deliver high bandwidth to handle today's mobile devices and business critical applications. They intelligently optimize wireless coverage and performance and minimize interference for a better user experience. With the OfficeConnect wireless solution you can:

- Create secure employee and guest Wi-Fi networks in minutes
- Offer easy onboarding for guests using social media log-in like Facebook Wi-Fi
- Offer reliable connectivity to support business critical voice, video and cloud applications
- Keep your business and customer traffic separate and highly secure
- Set guidelines to protect your business from on-line threats and prevent access to objectionable content with customizable website filtering
- Engage with customers and encourage them to stay longer

### An intuitive mobile app for simple network set-up and management

Setting up a wireless network has never been easier with the OfficeConnect mobile app. It automatically detects the OfficeConnect access point—all you need to do is create a network name and password and your network is ready to go. When you're ready to expand new APs automatically join the network, with no set up required. You can centrally monitor and manage up to eight APs—making ongoing network updates and maintenance a snap.

In just a few steps you can create separate employee and guest networks. Choose from open guest access, simple password sign-in or Facebook Wi-Fi log-ins. You can set up a network access schedule for guests by restricting access to specific days and hours of the week. You can even include your logo for your log-in page for a branded Wi-Fi experience.



1. Mobile application

2. Automatic AP discovery

3. Easy 2-step employee & guest network set-up











Sign up for updates



The OfficeConnect mobile app also lets you monitor and troubleshoot your network on the go. There's a quick health dashboard that provides complete visibility into your network, including wireless performance, how many devices are on and who's connected to the Wi-Fi network.

### Protect your business with enhanced security

HPE OfficeConnect OC20 wireless APs come with website filtering that allows you to block access to malicious websites, adult content, etc. to provide comprehensive protection against online threats as well as inappropriate/non-compliant websites. They also offer advanced access security and encryption to keep your business data secure and protected.

### Smart managed switches to power your Wi-Fi network

Cloud, mobile devices and collaboration tools can help your business grow and respond faster to your customers, however these bandwidth demanding applications can quickly slow down a small business network. So to keep your business running at top speed—switches can offer enhanced performance, security and redundancy.

Smart managed switches like the HPE OfficeConnect 1920S come with many advanced features that can secure and optimize your network. They're simple to configure and easy to manage through a web-based browser, even if you don't have a network admin on staff. These switches not only improve the availability of business-critical applications, they also protect sensitive information by tightly enforcing network access controls, while optimizing network bandwidth for increased productivity and efficiency. Power over Ethernet, with the latest PoE+, can also power devices including wireless access points, security cameras, IP phones and a host of other IP devices without the cost of additional cabling and with the OfficeConnect mobile app you can even monitor your 1920S switches as well as your wireless network.

### HPE OfficeConnect for small business networks

From resource management to customer relationship management (CRM) to cloud computing, small businesses are adopting business software that was once the exclusive realm of the enterprise. With a cost-effective, fast and reliable business-grade wireless solution, your small business can easily handle any business application and a growing number of mobile users. You can use smartphones, tablets, laptops, cloud services and even unified communications to connect to your customers. Video and mobility become additional ways for your small company to thrive and succeed.

With HPE's OfficeConnect wireless solution, you can set up a fast and reliable business-grade wireless network that will support your small business now and as you grow. OfficeConnect solutions are designed to meet the needs and budget of small businesses.

# Learn more at hpe.com/Officeconnect

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