

Getting online, data and devices

Access to technology is essential for everyday life. Getting online at home can be confusing. This topic explores different devices that connect to the internet.

Devices

Many devices at home connect to the internet. These devices can connect to home internet, mobile phone data, and public internet with portable devices. These devices also have safety settings to make your family safer online.

Desktop computer

- A desktop computer is a computer that cannot be moved easily. It is used at home, or an office and it is usually set up in one location.
- The screen is usually separate and is called the monitor.
- There is a keyboard, also separate to the computer. You can use different types of keyboards. Some keyboards connect with a cable and others connect wirelessly using Bluetooth.
- The mouse is also separate and can be connected with a cable or wirelessly.

Smart TV

- Smart TVs can connect to both antenna television channels and digital channels.
- You can access online streaming content, such as Netflix and Bing.
- You can access the internet with a Smart TV browser.
- Smart TVs connect to your home internet.
- TVs are usually controlled by a remote controller.

Gaming consoles

- There are many different types of gaming consoles, but they can all connect to the internet.
- Some gaming consoles will connect to a television, others are hand-held.
- The type of games you can play depend on the type of gaming console you have.

Laptop

- A laptop has many of the same parts as a desktop computer, but it is portable. The mouse, monitor and keyboard are all part of the laptop.

Smart phone

- A smart phone is a phone that connects to the internet.
- Check to see if there is a smart phone application for the activity you want to do on your phone before using the website.
- Smart phones require connection plans. This plan may come with data for internet connection. If your plan does not have data included, you will need to connect your phone to Wi-Fi.

Tablet

- A tablet has a touch screen. There is usually no mouse or keyboard attached to a tablet, but sometimes you can use these as extras.
- On a tablet you use the touch screen to type with a keyboard on the screen, or you can write and draw with your finger or a tablet pen on the screen.
- Tablets are chargeable and portable devices.
- The controls and power button are usually located along the side of the tablet.
- Some tablets only allow Wi-Fi connection, and others let you buy a connection plan and get online with purchased data.

Device safety settings

Visit the [eSafety Commissioner website](#) to learn about device safety settings.

Mobile networks

Your mobile device connects to the internet wirelessly using a mobile network. When you have a phone contract or prepaid service, you pay a company for access to a mobile network.

[Learn more about mobile networks.](#)

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is an internet connection that doesn't need any cables connected to your computer. The word Wi-Fi refers to a wireless network. You might have Wi-Fi set up at home or work. There is free Wi-Fi available in public places, like libraries and some shopping centres.

[Learn more about Wi-Fi.](#)

Public Wi-Fi

[Public places](#) like libraries, some coffee shops and shopping centres have free Wi-Fi you can connect with your smart phone or portable device.

Setting up your home network

There is more than one way to connect to the internet when you are at home. You can connect using a cable connection, Wi-Fi connection, use a satellite or with the National Broadband Network. Each of these connections are organised through an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Some common ISPs are Telstra and Optus, but there are many others.

[Learn more about setting up your home network.](#)

What is data?

If you want to set up a home internet connection, think about how much data you use. Data is a way to measure how much internet is used. If you know how much data you use, it can help you decide the internet plan best suited to your family.

1GB of data on the internet will let you:

- visit thousands of websites; or
- send thousands of emails; or
- listen to 300 songs online; or
- watch 1 episode of a TV show on a streaming platform, like Netflix or Stan.

[Learn more about data.](#)

Other ways to get online

Device and hotspot loan scheme in Tasmanian Government high schools

All Tasmanian Government high schools have devices and USB hotspots for students to borrow from the library. These devices can be borrowed by students and used at home for both school and recreational activities. Talk to your school library staff to learn more.

Libraries Tasmania FREE Wi-Fi

[Public libraries across the state](#) have free Wi-Fi and computers available to use.

Tasmanian Government FREE Wi-Fi

[Find free Wi-Fi near you.](#)

Resources

[NBN Co: The network explained](#)

[Australian Communications Consumer Action Network: Tip sheets](#)

[Australian Communications Consumer Action Network: Glossary of common words](#)

For the latest
information,
scan the QR code.

