BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

AN EXTENDED GUIDE · NO. 2371

Updated November 2026

I Changed My Wi Fi Password — Reconnecting Everything

A calm, in order way to get every device — even the ones with no screen — back on your Wi Fi

Plain-English home-network help from:
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Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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Book a visit · billshometech.com/book

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Nothing is broken — every device memorized the old password and just needs the new one. Make a checklist of everything on Wi Fi, room by room, so nothing is left offline. Put your phone on the new network first, because the screen less devices (printers, speakers, cameras, doorbells, plugs, thermostats) reconnect through their phone apps, which pass along the new details.

Then do your main computer and TV, the other screens, and finally the no screen helpers — testing each one. Type the password slowly; nearly every failure is a mistyped password. Next time you replace a router, reuse your old name and password so nothing needs reconnecting at all.

1 The Short Version

You changed your Wi Fi password — maybe for safety, maybe because you got a new router — and suddenly half the house stopped working. The TV won't stream, the printer is offline, the smart speaker is deaf, the thermostat lost its mind. This is completely normal and completely fixable. Every device memorized the old password, and each one simply needs to be told the new one, one at a time.

The job is not hard, but it is a treasure hunt — the easy to forget devices are the ones without screens. This guide gives you a smart order to work in, where to find the Wi Fi setting on each kind of device, and a checklist so nothing gets left behind quietly not working until you need it most.

- Nothing is broken — every device just needs the NEW Wi Fi password entered once.
- Work in a smart order: the devices you use most first, the hidden ones last.
- Have the new network name and password written down before you start.
- The tricky ones are devices with no screen — printers, speakers, plugs — which need their phone app.

TIP

Write the new Wi Fi name and password on a card and keep it in a known spot. You will type it a dozen times today, and you will want it again every time you add a device or a guest asks — it is the single most useful thing to have on hand for your home network.

2 Why Everything Dropped at Once

A Wi Fi device does not reconnect to "the internet" in general; it connects to one specific network name using one specific password, and it holds onto those like a memorized phone number. The moment you change the password, that memorized number stops working, so every device that knew the old one is locked out until you hand it the new one.

This is actually Wi Fi working correctly — the whole point of a password is that nothing connects without it. It feels like everything broke, but really everything is just politely waiting at the door with the wrong key. Give each one the new key and it walks right back in.

GOOD TO KNOW

This is also why a new router from your provider knocks everything offline even if your internet is fine. The new box almost always comes with a different network name and password printed on its sticker, which instantly orphans every device that knew the old one — unless you set the new router to reuse your old name and password.

3 Make a Device Checklist First

The biggest mistake is reconnecting the obvious things and forgetting the quiet ones, then being ambushed weeks later when a camera turns out to have been offline all along. Spend five minutes listing everything in the house that uses Wi Fi. Walk room to room.

- Everyday screens: phones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers.
- Entertainment: smart TVs, streaming sticks, game consoles, smart speakers.
- Household helpers: printers, thermostats, video doorbells, security cameras, smart plugs and bulbs, robot vacuums.
- Easy to forget: a garage keypad, a second TV, an e reader, a weather station, anything that updates on its own.

> **WATCH OUT**
> Check it off as you go. A written list is what stands between you and the unpleasant surprise of discovering a security camera or doorbell has been offline for a month because it never got the new password.

4 Reconnect in a Smart Order

Do the devices in an order that gets you back to normal life fastest and leaves the fiddly ones for when you have patience. There is no technical reason for the order — it just keeps the job calm.

1. Start with your phone — you will use it to reconnect the no screen devices, so it needs the new password first.
2. Then the devices you would miss most: your main computer or tablet, your main TV.
3. Then the rest of the screens around the house.
4. Finally, the no screen helpers (printer, speakers, plugs, cameras) using their phone apps.

GOOD TO KNOW

Getting your phone on the new network first is the key move. Many smart home devices reconnect by having your phone hand them the Wi Fi details through an app — so the phone has to know the new password before it can pass it along.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

5 Phones and Tablets

These are the easiest and the most important, because your phone becomes the tool for the harder devices. The steps are nearly the same on any phone or tablet.

1. Open Settings and tap Wi Fi.
2. If your device keeps trying the old network and failing, tap that network's name and choose "Forget" to clear the old password.
3. Tap your network name in the list, type the NEW password carefully, and connect.
4. Confirm you are online by opening a web page.

WATCH OUT

Wi Fi passwords are case sensitive and love to hide look alike characters — a capital O versus a zero, a lowercase l versus the number 1. Nearly every "it won't take the password" moment is a mistype. Go slowly, and use the "show password" eye icon if the device offers one.

6 Computers

Laptops and desktops reconnect much like phones, just from a different corner of the screen. The old network often needs to be forgotten so the computer stops insisting on the wrong password.

- Windows: click the Wi Fi icon near the clock, pick your network, enter the new password; if it won't take, open Settings Network Wi Fi Manage known networks and "Forget" the old one, then reconnect.
- Mac: click the Wi Fi icon in the top menu bar, choose your network, enter the new password; to clear a stubborn old entry, go to System Settings Wi Fi Details/Advanced and remove it.
- After reconnecting, make sure any wired only devices (a printer on cable) still work too.

> **TIP**
>
> If the computer connects but a website still won't load, give it a minute, or restart the computer once. It sometimes needs a moment to fully let go of the old connection and settle onto the new one.

7 Smart TVs, Streaming Sticks, and Game Consoles

These live in the network settings of each device. They are straightforward, just a little slow to type on with a remote.

1. Open the device's Settings, then the Network or Wi Fi section.
2. Choose your network name from the list — or "forget"/remove the old one first if it keeps retrying.
3. Enter the new password with the on screen keyboard and connect.
4. Open an app to confirm it is back online.

GOOD TO KNOW

On a streaming stick or a console, typing the password with a remote is the slow part. If the device's app on your phone offers to send the Wi Fi details, that is often quicker than pecking it out letter by letter on the TV.

8 The Tricky Part: Devices With No Screen

Printers, smart speakers, video doorbells, cameras, smart plugs, bulbs, and thermostats have no keyboard to type a password into. They reconnect through their maker's phone app, which passes the new Wi Fi details to them — which is exactly why you put your phone on the new network first.

1. On your phone (now on the new Wi Fi), open the maker's app for that device — HP Smart, the speaker's app, the camera's app, and so on.
2. Look for the device's Wi Fi or network settings, or an option to re add or set up the device.
3. Follow the prompts; the app hands your new Wi Fi details to the device.
4. Wait for it to confirm it is connected, then test it (print a page, play a song, view the camera).

WATCH OUT

The no screen devices are where people get stuck and where I get the most calls after a password change — a doorbell that won't re link, a speaker that won't pair, a camera that went dark. There is no shame in it; these apps are fiddly and each brand is different. It is a quick thing for me to run through with you.

9 Don't Forget the Set and Forget Devices

Some devices run so quietly that you forget they are on Wi Fi at all — until you need them. Hunt these down specifically, because they fail silently and the silence is the danger.

- Security cameras and video doorbells — the worst to leave offline, and the easiest to forget.
- A thermostat that quietly stopped reporting, so your remote control and schedule don't work.
- Smart plugs and bulbs that still work by hand but no longer respond to your phone or voice.
- A robot vacuum, a garage keypad, a second or guest room TV, a weather station.

WATCH OUT

A camera or doorbell that silently went offline during a password change can mean no recording when you most need it. Make these the first of the no screen devices you reconnect, and test each one — do not just assume the app reconnected it.

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10 Finish Strong: Verify and Tidy Up

Once you have worked through the list, do a quick lap to confirm nothing slipped through, and set yourself up so the next password change (or new router) is far easier.

- Walk your checklist one more time and actually test each device, not just glance at it.
- Keep the new password card somewhere everyone in the house can find it.
- If you set a new router, consider reusing your old network name and password next time — then nothing has to be reconnected at all.
- Note which devices needed an app, so next time you know where the fiddly ones live.

GOOD TO KNOW

Here is a pro move for next time: when you replace a router, you can usually set the new one to use the exact same network name and password as the old one. Do that, and every device reconnects on its own — no treasure hunt at all. It is the single best way to avoid this whole chore.

11 If One Device Won't Take the New Password

Most devices reconnect on the first try, but now and then one stubbornly refuses. Before assuming it is broken, run through this short list — it clears nearly every holdout.

1. Double check the password by typing it somewhere you can see it — a mistyped character is the usual cause.
2. On the device, "forget" or remove the old network entirely, then add it fresh.
3. Make sure the device is reaching for YOUR network, not a neighbor's similarly named one.
4. Restart the stubborn device once, then try again — a fresh start often clears a stuck connection.
5. For a no screen device, fully close and reopen its app, confirm your phone is on the new Wi Fi, and re run setup.

WATCH OUT

If a device only offers to connect to a network ending in something like "-5G" and never sees your main name, it may be an older device that only works on the 2.4GHz band. That is a known quirk of cheaper gadgets, not a fault you caused — and there is a separate, simple fix for it.

12 Let a Guest Network Save You Next Time

A guest network is a separate, second Wi Fi name your router can offer, meant for visitors so you never have to share your main password. It also quietly makes your life easier for smart devices and for the day you change your main password.

- Visitors join the guest network, so your real password stays private — and unchanged.
- You can keep lots of smart gadgets on one network and your personal devices on another, tidier and safer.
- If your main password is ever compromised, you change it without disturbing a carefully set up guest side.
- Most modern routers offer a guest network in their settings or app — it is worth turning on.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Giving guests their own network means you are never again tempted to recite or change your main password just because company is over — which is one of the most common reasons people end up reconnecting the whole house in the first place.

13 Why Changing the Password Was Worth It

If you changed your password on purpose — for safety, or because you suspected someone unwelcome had it — the afternoon of reconnecting is a small price for real peace of mind. A strong, private Wi Fi password keeps strangers off your network and your devices.

- A good password is long and easy for you to remember but hard to guess — a short phrase works well.
- Never reuse your email or banking password as your Wi Fi password.
- If you ever shared the old one widely, changing it is exactly the right instinct.
- Write the new one down somewhere safe at home — privacy does not mean you have to memorize it perfectly.

> **TIP**
> A Wi Fi password written on a card in a drawer at home is far safer than a weak one you can keep in your head. The risk to your home network comes from the wider world, not from a card in your own kitchen.

14 When to Call Bill

Reconnecting phones, computers, and TVs is well within reach, and the checklist makes the whole thing orderly. But if the no screen devices fight you — a doorbell that won't re link, a camera that stays dark, a speaker that won't pair — or if you simply have a houseful of smart devices and dread the hunt, you do not have to do it alone.

I come to you and reconnect every device to the new Wi Fi, including the fussy screen less ones, and I test each so nothing is left quietly offline. If you just changed routers, I will set it up to reuse your old name and password where that makes sense, so you rarely have to do this again.

- A no screen device — camera, doorbell, printer, speaker — won't reconnect.
- You have many smart home devices and want them all back without the hunt.
- You changed routers and want it set up so devices reconnect themselves.
- You would rather hand the whole treasure hunt to someone who does it every week.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Have the new network name and password written down.

I want to...	Do this...
Not forget anything	List every Wi Fi device room by room, check off as you go
Work in order	Phone first, then main TV/computer, then screens, then no screen devices
Reconnect a phone/computer	Wi Fi settings "Forget" old network pick yours type NEW password
Reconnect a TV/console	Settings Network pick your network enter the new password
Reconnect a no screen device	Use the maker's phone app (phone must be on the new Wi Fi first)
Avoid this next time	On a new router, reuse your old network name + password
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

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