BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Wi-Fi Passwords

Finding it, sharing it with guests, and changing it safely — explained in plain English

A plain-English guide to your home Wi-Fi password

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

For iPhone, Android, Windows & Mac · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your Wi-Fi password manual. Every home Wi-Fi network has a password, and sooner or later you'll need it: a new phone, a grandchild's tablet, a smart TV, a houseguest. This guide shows you where the password lives, how to see it on the phone or computer you already have, how to share it without reading out a long jumble of letters, and how to change it safely. Read it in any order; there's no test, and you can't break a thing by looking.

Part 1 — Getting Started

1 A Note from Bill
2 What a Wi-Fi Password Is
3 The Words You'll See
4 Before You Start: Write It Down

Part 2 — Finding Your Password

5 Look on the Router's Sticker
6 Find It on an iPhone or iPad
7 Find It on an Android Phone
8 Find It on a Windows PC
9 Find It on a Mac
10 Find It in Your Internet Company's or Router's App
11 When Nobody Knows It

Part 3 — Sharing Your Password

12 Share from an iPhone to Another Apple Device
13 Share with a QR Code
14 Joining Wi-Fi by Scanning a Code
15 A Wi-Fi Card for Guests
16 Guest Networks
17 TVs, Printers & Gadgets Without a Camera

Part 4 — Changing Your Password

18 When to Change Your Password
19 Choosing a Good Password
20 Changing It in the Router's App or Web Page
21 After You Change It: Reconnecting Everything
22 Changing the Network Name Too

Part 5 — Safety & Troubleshooting

23 Wi-Fi Password Scams
24 Neighbors, Freeloaders & Who's on Your Network

25 "Incorrect Password" and Other Problems
26 Wi-Fi Away from Home

Part 6 — When to Call Bill & Your Cheat-Sheet

27 When to Call Bill
28 Your Wi-Fi Password Cheat-Sheet

PART 1

Getting Started

What a Wi-Fi password is, the handful of words you'll run into, and one small habit that saves a lot of hunting later.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. If you've ever stood in the kitchen with a new tablet in one hand, squinting at the back of the internet box and wondering which of the six codes on the sticker is the right one, this guide is for **you**. You're in good company. The Wi-Fi password is one of the most-asked questions in home technology, and there's nothing silly about asking it.

I'm Bill. Helping folks feel at home with their technology is what I do every day, and I wrote this guide the way I'd explain it sitting beside you at your kitchen table: slowly, in plain English, with nothing taken for granted. If I use a word you don't know, I'll stop and explain it right there.

What you'll be able to do

- Find your Wi-Fi password, even if nobody wrote it down.
- See it on the iPhone, Android phone, Windows PC or Mac you already own.
- Share it with family and guests without spelling out a long string of letters.
- Set up a separate **guest network** so visitors never need your main password.
- Change the password safely, and get every device back online afterward.
- Spot the scams that use "Wi-Fi problems" as bait.

You can't break it by looking

Here's the reassuring part: **looking up your password changes nothing.** Peeking at it on your phone, reading the sticker, opening the router's app to see the settings: none of that can knock you offline. The only step in this whole guide that affects other devices is *changing* the password, and I'll walk you through that slowly, with a plan for afterward.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Why this matters

Once you know where your Wi-Fi password lives and how to share it, a new gadget or a visiting grandchild stops being a puzzle. You'll be the one who says, "Here, just scan this," and everyone's online in seconds.

And I'm a phone call away

If you get stuck, you're not stuck alone. Call me at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll sort it out together, with no judgment. So pour a cup of coffee, and let's find that password.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What a Wi-Fi Password Is

Your home Wi-Fi is a small radio signal that comes from a box in your house, usually called the **router**. Phones, tablets, computers and TVs listen for that signal to reach the internet. Because a radio signal goes through walls, your neighbors' phones can "see" your network too. The password is what keeps them from using it.

Two things: the name and the password

Every Wi-Fi network has two pieces of information, and you need both to connect:

Piece	What it is
Network name	What your network is called in the list of nearby networks, such as **Smith-Home** or **Spectrum-5G-1234**. Its technical name is the **SSID**. It isn't secret.
Password	The secret phrase that lets a device join. Some screens call it the **Wi-Fi key**, **security key**, **network key** or **passphrase**. They all mean the same thing.

GOOD TO KNOW

Capital letters count

Wi-Fi passwords are **case-sensitive**. That means a capital **B** and a small **b** are different letters. If the password is **BlueHouse42**, then **bluehouse42** won't work. The network *name* doesn't care about capitals, but the password always does.

You only type it once per device

The good news: each phone, tablet or computer remembers the password after you type it the first time. That's why you may not have seen it in years. Your devices quietly reconnect every time you come home. You only need the password again when something new joins, or after the password is changed.

Your Wi-Fi password is not your internet account password

This one trips up a lot of people. There are usually **three different** passwords around your internet:

- **The Wi-Fi password**: what devices type to join your home network. This guide is about this one.

- **The router's admin password**: what you use to get into the router's settings to change things. Many modern routers skip it and use a phone app instead.
- **Your internet company account password**: what you use to sign in to the company's website or app to pay your bill. It has nothing to do with joining Wi-Fi.

TIP

Keep them straight on paper

When you write these down (Chapter 4 shows a simple way), label each one clearly. "Wi-Fi," "router settings" and "internet account" are three different lines.

CHAPTER 3

The Words You'll See

Menus and stickers use a handful of technical words. You don't need to memorize them. Just come back to this page when one puzzles you.

Word	What it means
Router	The box that makes the Wi-Fi signal. Often it's combined with the modem in one box.
Modem	The box that connects your home to your internet company's line (cable, fiber or phone line).
Gateway	A single box that's both modem and router. Many internet companies supply one.
Mesh system	Two or three matching units placed around the house that act as one big network, such as eero or Google Nest Wifi. One password covers them all.
SSID	The network's name, the one you pick from the list.
Password, key, passphrase	The secret phrase for joining the network. Same thing, different labels.
WPA2, WPA3	The kind of lock the network uses. WPA3 is the newest and strongest; WPA2 is still common and fine with a strong password. Older types called WEP or "Open" aren't safe for a home.
2.4 GHz and 5 GHz	Two radio "lanes" many routers offer. Some routers show them as two networks with similar names. Usually the same password works for both.
Guest network	A second, separate network for visitors, with its own password.
QR code	A square, checkerboard-like code a phone camera can read. It can hold a network's name and password, so a guest joins by pointing their camera at it.
Admin page	The settings screen for the router, reached through an app or a web address like **192.168.1.1**.

GOOD TO KNOW

Why two networks with almost the same name?

If you see **Smith-Home** and **Smith-Home-5G**, that's one router offering both radio lanes. Pick either one; the 5G lane (that's 5 GHz, nothing to do with 5G phone service) is faster up close, and the plain one reaches farther. Most newer routers combine them under one name and choose for you.

CHAPTER 4

Before You Start: Write It Down

The single most useful thing you can do with your Wi-Fi password is put it somewhere you'll find it next time. Once you've found it (the next part of this guide shows how), take two minutes to record it.

Good places to keep it

- **On paper, at home**, in the same folder as your other household papers. A Wi-Fi password is fine to write down. A burglar who's already inside your house isn't after your Wi-Fi.
- **In your phone's password app.** iPhones and Macs already keep it in the **Passwords** app automatically. If you use a password manager, add a note there too.
- **On a guest card** with a QR code, so visitors can help themselves. Chapter 15, *A Wi-Fi Card for Guests* shows how.

Where not to keep it

- Not taped to the router where any visitor or repair person can photograph it, if you've changed it to something personal.
- Not in an email or text to someone you don't know well.
- Not on a social media post, even in the background of a photo of your kitchen.

Fill this in

My Wi-Fi details	
My network name	_____
My Wi-Fi password	_____
Guest network name	_____
Guest password	_____
Router app or admin page	_____
Internet company and phone	_____
Bill's Home Tech	(330) 200-8042 · billshometech.com/book

TIP

Copy it carefully

When you copy a password, watch for the look-alikes: the number **0** and the capital letter **O**, the number **1**, a small **l** and a capital **I**. If your handwriting makes them look the same, write "zero" or "letter O" above the character.

PART 2

Finding Your Password

Where the password lives: on the router, on your phone, on your computer, and in your internet company's app. Plus what to do when nobody knows it.

CHAPTER 5

Look on the Router's Sticker

If nobody has ever changed your Wi-Fi password, it's almost certainly printed on a label on the router or gateway itself. That's the box with the blinking lights your internet company installed or mailed to you.

Finding the label

1. Find the box. It's often near where the cable or fiber line comes into the house, or near a TV or computer desk. If you have a mesh system, look on the main unit, the one plugged into the modem.
2. Look on the **bottom**, **back** or **side** for a white or silver label. You may need to tip it gently. Don't unplug anything.
3. Look for the network name, labeled **SSID**, **Network Name** or **Wi-Fi Name**.
4. Next to it, look for the password, labeled **Password**, **Wi-Fi Password**, **Network Key**, **Security Key**, **WPA Key** or **Passphrase**.
5. Copy both onto your paper exactly, capitals and all, or take a clear photo of the label with your phone.

HEADS UP

Ignore the other codes

Router labels are busy. You'll also see a **serial number** (S/N), a **MAC address** (pairs of letters and numbers with colons), a **model number**, and sometimes an **admin password** for the settings page. None of those are the Wi-Fi password. You want the one next to the network name.

Some labels have a QR code

Many newer routers print a QR code right on the label. Point a phone camera at it, and the phone offers to join the network. No typing at all. (Chapter 14, *Joining Wi-Fi by Scanning a Code* explains scanning.)

When the sticker is wrong

The sticker shows the **original** password from the factory. If someone (you, a family member, an installer, or a previous owner) changed it later, the sticker no longer works. If the sticker password gets an "incorrect password" message, move on to the next chapters and look it up on a device that's already connected.

TIP

Mesh and app-based systems often have no Wi-Fi password sticker

Systems like eero and Google Nest Wifi have you *make up* the password in their phone app during setup, so there's nothing on the label. Look in the app instead (Chapter 10, *Find It in Your Internet Company's or Router's App*).

CHAPTER 6

Find It on an iPhone or iPad

If your iPhone or iPad is already connected to your Wi-Fi, it knows the password and will show it to you. You just have to prove it's you with your passcode, Face ID or Touch ID. This works on iOS 16 and later, which covers any iPhone from the last several years.

For the network you're on right now

1. Open the **Settings** app (the gray gear).
2. Tap **Wi-Fi**.
3. Find your network at the top, with a check mark next to it. Tap the small blue **i** in a circle to the right of its name.
4. Tap the **Password** line. It shows as dots at first.
5. Look at the phone for Face ID, touch the Touch ID button, or type your passcode. The password appears.
6. To copy it, tap the password and tap **Copy**. Now you can paste it into a text or a note.

Checked against Apple Support on November 13, 2026.

For a network you joined before

Your iPhone also remembers networks you're not on right now, such as your daughter's house.

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Wi-Fi**.
2. Tap **Edit** in the upper-right corner, and unlock with Face ID, Touch ID or your passcode. A list of **Known Networks** appears.
3. Tap the blue **i** next to the network you want. (Networks with a lock symbol have passwords.)
4. Tap the **Password** line to see it.

Checked against Apple Support on November 13, 2026.

In the Passwords app

Since iOS 18, iPhones and iPads have an app simply called **Passwords** (a white key on a blue background). It keeps every Wi-Fi network your devices have joined, in one tidy list.

1. Open the **Passwords** app and unlock it with Face ID, Touch ID or your passcode.
2. Tap **Wi-Fi**.

3. Tap the network you want.
4. Tap the **Password** line to reveal it.

Checked against Apple Support on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

Why your iPad knows networks it never joined

If you're signed in to the same Apple Account on your iPhone, iPad and Mac, and iCloud Keychain is on, Wi-Fi networks are shared among them. Join on one, and the others know it too. That's why the Passwords app may list networks from places you took a different device.

CHAPTER 7

Find It on an Android Phone

Android phones come from many makers, so the menus vary a little. The two you'll meet most are Google's **Pixel** and Samsung's **Galaxy**. On both, the trick is the same: the phone shows the password inside a **QR code** you can share, and it asks you to prove it's you first.

On a Google Pixel

1. Open the **Settings** app.
2. Tap **Network & internet**, then **Internet**.
3. Make sure Wi-Fi is on and you're connected to the network you want.
4. Tap the **gear** (Settings) icon next to the network name, then tap **Share**.
5. Confirm it's you with your fingerprint, face or PIN.
6. A QR code appears. Another phone can scan it to join. Some phones also show the password in words under the code.

Checked against Google Pixel Help on November 13, 2026.

> **TIP**
>
> **A quicker way on a Pixel**
>
> Swipe down from the top of the screen to open **Quick Settings**, tap **Internet**, then tap **Share Wi-Fi** at the bottom left. Google added this button in recent Android versions, and it only works for the network you're connected to right now.

Checked against Google Pixel Help on November 13, 2026.

On a Samsung Galaxy

1. Open the **Settings** app.
2. Tap **Connections**, then **Wi-Fi**. Make sure you're connected to the network you want to share.
3. Tap the **gear** (Settings) icon next to the connected network.
4. Tap **QR code**. A code appears for another phone to scan.

Checked against Samsung Support on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

Seeing the password as letters on Android

Some newer Android phones show the password in plain letters on the network's details screen, often behind an "eye" icon. Others only offer the QR code. If yours only shows a code, that's fine: scanning it with another phone connects that phone. And if you need the letters themselves, an iPhone, a Windows PC or a Mac that's on the same network can show them.

HEADS UP

Other Android makers

Motorola, OnePlus and others follow a similar path: **Settings**, then **Wi-Fi** or **Network & internet**, tap the network (or its gear), and look for **Share** or **QR code**. If the words differ, look for anything that says share.

CHAPTER 8

Find It on a Windows PC

A Windows 11 computer that's connected to your Wi-Fi can show you the password right in Settings. You may be asked to confirm with your PIN or password, and on some computers you need to be signed in as the computer's main (administrator) user.

In Windows 11 Settings

1. Click **Start** and open **Settings** (the gear).
2. Click **Network & internet** in the left column, then **Wi-Fi**.
3. Click **Manage known networks**, then click the network you want.
4. Find **View Wi-Fi security key** and click **View**.
5. Confirm with your PIN, password or fingerprint if asked. A small box shows the password.

On up-to-date Windows 11, the same **View Wi-Fi security key** line also appears near the top of the properties page for the network you're connected to (click the network's name on the Wi-Fi page).

Checked against Microsoft Q&A and current Windows 11 Settings guides on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

Don't see "View Wi-Fi security key"?

The button arrived in Windows 11 updates from 2023 onward. If it's missing, run **Windows Update** (Start, Settings, Windows Update, Check for updates) and look again. On an older Windows 10 computer, the password is in the old Control Panel's network settings. That's a fiddly route, and a good one to do together over the phone.

CHAPTER 9

Find It on a Mac

On a Mac with macOS Sequoia (version 15) or later, Wi-Fi passwords live in the same **Passwords** app the iPhone has.

1. Click the magnifying glass at the top right of the screen (Spotlight), type **Passwords**, and press **Return**.
2. Unlock it with Touch ID or your Mac's login password.
3. Click **Wi-Fi** in the left column.
4. Click the network you want, then point to or click the password to reveal it.

GOOD TO KNOW

On an older Mac

Macs older than Sequoia keep Wi-Fi passwords in an app called **Keychain Access**. It works, but it's technical. If you're on an older Mac, it's usually easier to look the password up on your iPhone instead.

CHAPTER 10

Find It in Your Internet Company's or Router's App

Most internet companies and router makers now offer a free phone app for managing your home network. If you (or whoever set things up) used one, it shows the Wi-Fi name and password, usually on its front screen or under a heading like **Network**, **Wi-Fi** or **Internet**.

Common apps

If your Wi-Fi comes from…	Look in this app
Spectrum	**My Spectrum** app (Services or Internet section)
Xfinity (Comcast)	**Xfinity** app
AT&T	**Smart Home Manager** app or myAT&T
Verizon Fios or Home Internet	**My Verizon** app or the router's own app
T-Mobile Home Internet	**T-Life** app
An eero system	**eero** app
Google Nest Wifi	**Google Home** app
TP-Link, Netgear, ASUS and others	**Deco** or **Tether** (TP-Link), **Nighthawk** or **Orbi** (Netgear), **ASUS Router**

Exact menus differ and change with app updates. The companion manuals on **Spectrum Internet** and **eero** walk through those two apps step by step.

STAY SAFE

Get the app from the official store only

Download these apps only from the **App Store** (iPhone) or **Google Play** (Android), and check the maker's name under the app title. Never install a "router app" from a link in a text, email or pop-up.

The router's web page

Routers without an app have a settings page you reach in a web browser on a device that's on your Wi-Fi. The address and the admin sign-in are usually on the router's label: an address like **192.168.0.1**, **192.168.1.1** or **10.0.0.1**, plus an admin user name and password. Inside, the Wi-Fi password is typically under **Wireless**, **Wi-Fi Settings** or **WLAN**.

CHAPTER 11

When Nobody Knows It

Sometimes the sticker's wrong, no device in the house is connected, and nobody remembers what it was changed to. Don't worry. You have options, from easiest to last resort.

Try these first

1. **Check every device that's still online.** A smart TV, a laptop, or a family member's phone that visited recently may still be connected. Any connected iPhone, Mac or Windows PC can show the password (Chapters 6, 8 and 9). Any connected Android can share it by QR code.
2. **Check the Passwords app on an iPhone or Mac**, even one not at home right now. It remembers networks it joined before.
3. **Open your internet company's or router's app** (Chapter 10, *Find It in Your Internet Company's or Router's App*). If you can sign in, it can show the password or let you set a new one, no reset needed.
4. **Call your internet company** if they supplied the router. They can often see or change the Wi-Fi password remotely after confirming your identity. Use the number on your bill, not one from a search ad.

The last resort: a factory reset

Every router has a tiny recessed **Reset** button. Holding it in (usually with a paper clip, for 10 to 30 seconds) wipes all its settings and puts back the password on the sticker.

HEADS UP

A reset has side effects

A factory reset erases *everything* you or an installer set up: the network name, the password, any guest network, parental controls and special settings. **Every** device in the house will need to be reconnected with the sticker password, and some provider-supplied routers need a call to the company to get working again. Mesh systems like eero may need to be set up again in their app. Treat it as the last step, not the first. If you're unsure, call before you press it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Don't confuse reset with restart

Restarting (unplugging the router for 30 seconds and plugging it back in) is harmless and fixes many problems. It does *not* change the password. **Resetting** with the pin-hole button is the one that erases settings.

PART 3

Sharing Your Password

How to get family and guests online without reading out a jumble of letters: Apple's tap-to-share, QR codes, a guest card, and a separate guest network.

CHAPTER 12

Share from an iPhone to Another Apple Device

When a family member with an iPhone, iPad or Mac visits, you may not need to know the password at all. Your iPhone can hand it over with one tap.

Before you start

- Both devices should be up to date, with **Wi-Fi** and **Bluetooth** turned on.
- Each person should be signed in to their own **Apple Account**.
- Each of you needs the other saved in **Contacts**, with the email address or phone number they use for their Apple Account.
- Hold the two devices close together. If either has **Personal Hotspot** on, turn it off.

Share it

1. Make sure **your** iPhone is unlocked and connected to your Wi-Fi.
2. Ask your visitor to open **Settings**, tap **Wi-Fi**, and tap your network's name, as if they were going to type the password.
3. On your iPhone, a card pops up offering to share the password. Tap **Share Password**.
4. Tap **Done**. Their device fills in the password and joins.

Checked against Apple Support on November 13, 2026.

TIP

If the pop-up doesn't appear

Lock and unlock your iPhone, and keep it right next to theirs. If it still doesn't show, restart both devices and try again. The most common cause is that one of you isn't in the other's Contacts. If all else fails, use a QR code (Chapter 13, *Share with a QR Code*), which has none of these requirements.

CHAPTER 13

Share with a QR Code

A QR code is the easiest way to share Wi-Fi with *anyone*: iPhone or Android, friend or repair person. You show a square code on your screen; they point their camera at it and tap to join. Nobody reads anything aloud, and nobody mistypes a capital letter.

From an iPhone or iPad (iOS 18 or later)

1. Open the **Passwords** app and unlock it.
2. Tap **Wi-Fi**, then tap your network.
3. Tap **Show Network QR Code**.
4. Hold your screen up for your guest to scan with their phone's camera.

Checked against Apple Support on November 13, 2026.

From a Google Pixel

1. Open **Settings**, tap **Network & internet**, then **Internet**.
2. Tap the **gear** next to your network, then tap **Share**.
3. Confirm it's you. Show the QR code to your guest.

Checked against Google Pixel Help on November 13, 2026.

From a Samsung Galaxy

1. Open **Settings**, tap **Connections**, then **Wi-Fi**.
2. Tap the **gear** next to the network you're connected to.
3. Tap **QR code** and show it to your guest.

Checked against Samsung Support on November 13, 2026.

STAY SAFE

A Wi-Fi QR code is the password

Anyone who scans the code gets onto that network, so treat it like the password itself. Show it to people you'd give the password to, and don't post a photo of it online. For casual visitors, share your **guest network**'s code instead (Chapter 16, *Guest Networks*).

CHAPTER 14

Joining Wi-Fi by Scanning a Code

Now the other side: when someone shows *you* a Wi-Fi QR code, or there's one on a router label, a hotel card or a friend's fridge, here's how to use it.

On an iPhone or iPad

1. Open the **Camera** app.
2. Point it at the code so the whole square fits on the screen. Hold steady for a second or two.
3. A small yellow banner appears, such as **Join "Smith-Home" Network**. Tap it.
4. Tap **Join** to confirm.

On an Android phone

1. Open the **Camera** app and point it at the code. (On some phones, you may need to open **Google Lens** or the QR scanner in Quick Settings instead.)
2. Tap the pop-up that names the network, then tap **Connect** or **Join**.

TIP

Another way on Android

Open **Settings**, go to your Wi-Fi list, and look for a small QR-code symbol next to **Add network** (often at the bottom of the list). Tap it to open a scanner built right into the Wi-Fi settings.

HEADS UP

Only scan Wi-Fi codes from people and places you trust

Scanning a Wi-Fi code just offers to join a network, and your phone asks before it does anything. But a code taped up in a public place could lead to a fake network. At a café or hotel, ask the staff which network is theirs. (Chapter 26, *Wi-Fi Away from Home* covers this.)

CHAPTER 15

A Wi-Fi Card for Guests

If you have regular visitors (grandchildren, a caregiver, a house sitter) a small card with your guest network's name, password and a QR code saves you from looking it up every time. Prop it on the counter or put it on the fridge with a magnet.

Making one

1. Decide which network goes on the card. Your **guest network** is best (Chapter 16, *Guest Networks*).
2. On an iPhone, open **Passwords**, tap **Wi-Fi**, your network, and **Show Network QR Code**. Take a screenshot (press the side button and volume-up together).
3. Print the screenshot, or ask a family member to, and trim it to card size.
4. Write the network name and password in clear capital-and-lowercase letters underneath, for anyone whose device has no camera.

GOOD TO KNOW

Online "QR code generators"

There are websites that make Wi-Fi QR codes, but they ask you to type your password into someone else's web page. Using the code your own phone makes is safer, and it's free.

TIP

Change the password? Make a new card

The card stops working the moment the password changes. Put a reminder in your Wi-Fi folder: "New password means new card."

CHAPTER 16

Guest Networks

A **guest network** is a second Wi-Fi network from the same router, with its own name and password. Visitors get internet, but they're kept apart from your own computers, printer and smart-home gadgets. And because they never learn your main password, you never have to change it after they leave.

Why it's worth having

- **Your devices stay private.** On most routers, guest devices can't see or reach the computers and printers on your main network.
- **No password changing after visitors.** If a guest password gets passed around, you change just that one, and nothing of yours has to reconnect.
- **Easy to turn off.** Many routers let you switch the guest network off between visits, or set it to expire.

Setting one up

Almost every modern router offers a guest network. Where you find it depends on the router:

1. Open your router's app or admin page (Chapter 10, *Find It in Your Internet Company's or Router's App*).
2. Look for **Guest Network**, **Guest Wi-Fi** or **Guest Access**. It may sit under **Settings**, **Wi-Fi** or **Network**.
3. Turn it on. Give it a clear name, such as **Smith-Guest**.
4. Choose a password that's easy to share but not guessable, such as three or four unrelated words. (Chapter 19, *Choosing a Good Password* has ideas.)
5. Save. Write the guest name and password on your Wi-Fi page, and make a guest card if you like.

HEADS UP

Smart-home gadgets: main network or guest?

Some people put smart plugs, cameras and TVs on the guest network to keep them apart from computers. That can work, but some gadgets (printers, speakers, streaming sticks) need to be on the *same* network as the phone that controls them. If something stops working after a move to guest, put it back on the main network.

GOOD TO KNOW

A couple of brand notes

In the eero app it's **Settings** > **Guest wifi network**, then **Enable guest network**. Google Nest Wifi has **Guest network** in the Google Home app. Many internet-company gateways include one in their app too. The eero and Spectrum manuals have the exact steps for those.

CHAPTER 17

TVs, Printers & Gadgets Without a Camera

Smart TVs, streaming sticks, printers, thermostats and doorbells can't scan a QR code, so they need the password typed in, usually with a remote or a phone app. A little patience goes a long way.

Typing on a TV with the remote

- Go slowly. Use the arrow buttons to move across the on-screen keyboard, and the middle button to pick each letter.
- Look for a **Shift** or **aA** key to switch to capital letters, and a **123** or **&?#** key for numbers and symbols.
- Most TVs have a **Show password** box or an eye symbol. Turn it on so you can check every letter before you press **Connect**.

Gadgets set up with a phone app

Smart plugs, cameras, video doorbells and many printers are set up through their maker's phone app. The app usually asks for your Wi-Fi password while your phone is on that network. A few tips:

- Be at home, connected to the network you want the gadget to use.
- Some gadgets only work on the **2.4 GHz** lane. If the app can't find your network, check its help page for a 2.4 GHz requirement; many newer routers handle this for you automatically.
- When it asks for the password, the app may fill it in for you. Check it carefully anyway.

GOOD TO KNOW

The WPS button

Some routers and printers have a **WPS** button. Pressing it on both, within a couple of minutes, connects the device without typing. It's handy for an older printer, but many newer routers have dropped it for security reasons. If yours doesn't have one, typing the password works just as well.

PART 4

Changing Your Password

When it's worth changing, how to pick a good one, how to change it, and how to get everything back online afterward.

CHAPTER 18

When to Change Your Password

You don't need to change your Wi-Fi password on a schedule. A strong password can stay the same for years. But there are some good reasons to change it:

- **It's still the factory password** and the label is somewhere visitors can see or photograph it.
- **It's weak**: short, a single dictionary word, your street address, or something like "password123."
- **Someone you no longer trust has it**, such as a former tenant, a previous homeowner, or a contractor who was given it for a job.
- **You see devices you don't recognize** on your network (Chapter 24, *Neighbors, Freeloaders & Who's on Your Network*).
- **It's been widely shared** and you'd rather start fresh, perhaps setting up a guest network at the same time.

HEADS UP

Pick a quiet moment

Changing the password knocks **every** device off your Wi-Fi until you give it the new one: phones, tablets, TVs, printers, thermostats, doorbells, smart speakers. Choose a time when you have an hour and aren't relying on a video call or a medical device that uses Wi-Fi. Chapter 21, *After You Change It: Reconnecting Everything* has a checklist.

CHAPTER 19

Choosing a Good Password

A good Wi-Fi password is long, unguessable, and still easy for you to type on a TV remote. Those goals fit together better than you'd think.

The simple recipe: three or four random words

String together three or four unrelated words, with a number somewhere: **maple-kettle-harbor-62** or **CopperTulipRiver7**. It's long, so it's very hard to guess, but it's easy to read aloud and easy to type. Don't use those exact examples; make up your own.

Avoid	Better
Your address, phone number or last name	Words that have nothing to do with you
One word plus a number ("Buckeyes1")	Three or four unrelated words
Fewer than 12 characters	15 characters or more
Lots of symbols that are hard to find on a TV keyboard	Letters and numbers, with a dash if you like
The same password as your email or bank	A password used only for Wi-Fi

GOOD TO KNOW

What the router may require

Routers want at least **8 characters**, and some reject certain symbols. If the router's app shows a strength meter, aim for the strongest level. Avoid spaces at the start or end; some devices drop them.

And the lock type

While you're in the settings, look for the security type. **WPA3** is the newest and strongest, and **WPA2** is still acceptable with a good password. If you see **WEP**, plain **WPA**, or **Open/None**, those are outdated or unprotected and should be changed. If an older device stops connecting after a switch to WPA3, a setting called **WPA2/WPA3** (mixed or transition mode) usually keeps everyone happy.

Checked against the Federal Trade Commission's home Wi-Fi guidance on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 20

Changing It in the Router's App or Web Page

You change the Wi-Fi password in the same place you'd look it up: the router's app or its admin web page (Chapter 10, *Find It in Your Internet Company's or Router's App*). The words differ by brand, but the steps follow the same pattern.

The general steps

1. Write the new password on paper **first**, so you're never left without it.
2. Open your router's or internet company's app (or the admin page) and sign in.
3. Find the Wi-Fi settings. Look for **Wi-Fi**, **Network**, **Wireless**, **My Wi-Fi** or **Network settings**.
4. Tap or click **Edit** or the pencil next to the password.
5. Type the new password carefully, using **Show password** to check it.
6. Tap **Save** or **Apply**. The router may restart its Wi-Fi, which takes a minute or two.
7. On your phone, rejoin the network with the new password, then work through Chapter 21, *After You Change It: Reconnecting Everything*.

Examples from common providers

Provider	Where to change it
AT&T	Smart Home Manager app: **My Wi-Fi**, then **Edit** next to the password.
T-Mobile Home Internet	T-Life app: open your home internet location, choose **Manage**, then **My Wi-Fi**, tap your network, enter the new password and save.
Spectrum and eero	Covered step by step in the Spectrum Internet and eero manuals.

Checked against AT&T and T-Mobile support pages on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

Changing it from a phone that's on the Wi-Fi

If you change the password using a phone or laptop that's connected over that same Wi-Fi, it will be disconnected the moment you save. That's expected. Wait a minute, then pick your network and type the new password. Internet-company apps that work over the cell network (like the ones above) avoid this hiccup.

STAY SAFE

Leave the router's other settings alone

While you're in there, you'll see many other settings. Change only the password (and perhaps the network name). If you're ever unsure what a setting does, leave it and ask.

CHAPTER 21

After You Change It: Reconnecting Everything

Right after a password change, each device in the house will say it can't connect. That's normal. Each one just needs the new password once. Use this list so nothing gets forgotten.

Make a walk-around list

Room or place	Devices to check
Pockets and purses	Phones, tablets, e-readers, smartwatches
Living room	Smart TV, streaming stick or box, soundbar, game console, smart speaker
Office	Computer, laptop, printer, scanner
Kitchen	Smart display, smart speaker, any connected appliance
Bedroom	Tablet, speaker, alarm clock, health monitor, CPAP if it reports over Wi-Fi
Around the house	Thermostat, video doorbell, cameras, smart plugs and lights, robot vacuum
Outside and garage	Outdoor cameras, sprinkler controller, garage door opener, EV charger

How each kind reconnects

- **Phones, tablets and computers:** tap or click the network name and enter the new password. If it keeps refusing, tell it to **Forget This Network** and then join fresh.
- **TVs and streaming sticks:** go to the device's **Settings**, then **Network**, pick your network, and type the new password.
- **Smart-home gadgets:** open the gadget's app; look for **Wi-Fi settings**, **Change network** or **Reconnect**. Some gadgets have to be removed and set up again.
- **Printers:** use the printer's touchscreen **Wireless** menu or the maker's app.

TIP

A shortcut: keep the old name, change only the password

Keep the same network name and only change the password. Most phones and computers will prompt for the new password the next time they try to connect, which makes the walk-around quicker.

HEADS UP

Medical and safety devices first

If anyone in the home has a medical alert system, a health monitor or a security system that uses Wi-Fi, reconnect those first and check that they show as online. If you're not sure how, call the device's support line or give me a ring before you change the password.

CHAPTER 22

Changing the Network Name Too

The network name (SSID) is what neighbors see in their lists, so it's worth a moment's thought.

Good names, poor names

- **Good:** something friendly and anonymous, like **MapleStreetHome** or **BlueDoor**.
- **Avoid your full name or address**: "Smith-123-Elm" tells strangers exactly whose network it is.
- **Avoid the router's brand or model** in the name; that can hint at its default settings.
- **Avoid jokes that invite trouble**, like "FBI Surveillance Van" or "HackMeIfYouCan."

HEADS UP

A new name means everything reconnects

If you change the name, every device sees it as a brand-new network and needs to be connected from scratch. If you're changing the password anyway, it's a good time to change both. Otherwise, keep the old name.

PART 5

Safety & Troubleshooting

The scams that use Wi-Fi as bait, uninvited guests on your network, "incorrect password" puzzles, and Wi-Fi away from home.

CHAPTER 23

Wi-Fi Password Scams

Scammers know that everybody depends on their internet, and that a message saying it's about to be cut off makes people hurry. Here are the tricks to know, and the simple rule that beats them all.

SCAM ALERT

"Your Wi-Fi has been compromised. Click here to secure it."

Texts, emails and pop-ups that claim your router has been hacked, your Wi-Fi is about to be shut off, or your password must be "verified" are fakes. The link leads to a look-alike page that steals passwords or card numbers. Your internet company does not ask you to confirm your Wi-Fi password by text or email.

SCAM ALERT

The "tech support" phone call

A caller says they're from your internet company, Microsoft or "the network department" and needs your Wi-Fi or router password, or wants you to install an app so they can "fix" your connection. Hang up. A real company won't cold-call you for your password, and an app that lets a stranger control your computer is exactly what scammers want.

SCAM ALERT

The pop-up with a phone number

A browser window suddenly fills the screen, maybe with a loud voice or alarm, saying your network is infected and to call a number right away. It's a scam. Close the browser (or restart the device). Never call the number.

The rule that beats them all

If someone contacts you about your Wi-Fi, don't use the link, number or app they give you. Hang up or close the message, then reach the company yourself using the number on your bill or the official app you already have. If it was real, they'll still be able to help.

If you already clicked or shared

1. Don't panic. Stop replying to the message or caller.
2. If you gave out your Wi-Fi password, change it (Chapter 20, *Changing It in the Router's App or Web Page*).
3. If you gave out your internet account or email password, change those too, starting with email.
4. If you let someone onto your computer, turn the computer off and call for help before using it for banking.
5. If you shared a card number, call the number on the back of the card.

> **FROM BILL**
>
> **This is exactly what I'm here for**
>
> If a message gives you that "this doesn't feel right" twinge, stop and call me before you do anything. Checking costs you a few minutes, and guessing wrong can cost a lot more.

CHAPTER 24

Neighbors, Freeloaders & Who's on Your Network

If your internet seems slow, or you're just curious, you can see which devices are connected to your Wi-Fi. Most router and internet-company apps have a list, often called **Devices**, **Connected devices** or **Clients**.

Reading the device list

- Count your own devices first: everybody's phones, tablets, TVs, speakers, the thermostat, the doorbell. Most homes have more than people expect.
- Many devices show a helpful name like "Mary's iPhone" or "Living Room TV." Others show a maker name ("Amazon," "Roku," "Espressif") or just a string of letters and numbers.
- An unfamiliar name isn't proof of a stranger. It's often a smart plug or bulb with a cryptic name.

If you think someone's using it without permission

1. Many apps let you **pause** or **block** a device from the list. That's a quick fix, but a determined freeloader can come back.
2. The real cure is to **change your Wi-Fi password** to a strong new one (Chapter 19, *Choosing a Good Password*). Everyone without the new password is locked out.
3. Set up a **guest network** so the main password doesn't get passed around again (Chapter 16, *Guest Networks*).
4. Make sure the security type is **WPA2** or **WPA3**, not WEP or Open.

GOOD TO KNOW

Private Wi-Fi addresses

Newer iPhones and Android phones use a **private Wi-Fi address**, a kind of disguise for each network. So the same phone may show up in the router's list with an unfamiliar code, or appear twice after a change. That's a privacy feature, not an intruder.

CHAPTER 25

"Incorrect Password" and Other Problems

When a device won't join, it's almost always one of a few small things. Work down this list.

If it says the password is wrong

1. **Check capitals.** Remember, a capital and a small letter are different. Turn on **Show password** and compare every character.
2. **Check the look-alikes:** zero and the letter O, the number 1 and the letters l and I, the number 5 and the letter S.
3. **Check the network.** Are you joining the right name? Your neighbor's network may look similar.
4. **Is it the sticker password?** If someone changed it, the sticker is out of date. Look it up on a connected device instead (Part 2).
5. **Forget and rejoin.** On the device, choose the network, tap **Forget This Network** (or **Forget**), then join again and type the password fresh.

If the password is right but it still won't connect

1. Turn the device's Wi-Fi off and on, or restart the device.
2. Restart the router: unplug its power for 30 seconds, plug it back in, and give it a few minutes to come back fully.
3. Move closer to the router. A weak signal can look like a password problem.
4. For an older gadget, check whether it needs the 2.4 GHz lane or WPA2 instead of WPA3 (Chapter 19, *Choosing a Good Password*).
5. Check that the device's date and software are up to date.

> **TIP**
>
> **One device or all of them?**
>
> If only one device has trouble, the problem is that device. If *everything* is offline, the problem is the router or the internet line. The companion manual **Slow Internet? Speed Tests & Fixes** covers outages in detail.

CHAPTER 26

Wi-Fi Away from Home

Hotels, cafés, libraries, doctors' offices and airports offer Wi-Fi. Some have a password on a sign or a card; some open a sign-in page in your browser. A little care keeps you safe.

Joining safely

1. Ask the staff for the **exact network name** and password. Scammers sometimes set up look-alike networks such as "Free Airport WiFi" to catch people.
2. Join the network in your Wi-Fi settings. If a sign-in page appears, read it, then tap to accept.
3. Stick to websites and apps you already trust, and look for the padlock in the address bar.

STAY SAFE

Save banking for home or your cell signal

The Federal Trade Commission notes that a hotspot that doesn't require a password isn't secure. For banking, shopping and anything private, it's safer to wait until you're home or switch off Wi-Fi and use your phone's cellular data.

Checked against the Federal Trade Commission's public Wi-Fi guidance on November 13, 2026.

TIP

Tidy up afterward

Your phone remembers every network it joins and may rejoin automatically next time. For places you won't visit again, open Wi-Fi settings, tap the network, and choose **Forget This Network**.

PART 6

When to Call Bill & Your Cheat-Sheet

When a hand saves worry, and every everyday move on a single page.

CHAPTER 27

When to Call Bill

This guide will get you through nearly every Wi-Fi password situation on your own. But part of being helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time and worry. Here's when I'd pick up the phone.

Good reasons to call

- Nobody knows the password and you're thinking about a **factory reset**.
- You want to **change the password** and have lots of smart-home gadgets, cameras or medical devices that will need reconnecting.
- You'd like a **guest network** set up properly, with a card for visitors.
- You can't get into the router's app or admin page.
- A message or caller about your Wi-Fi gives you that **"this doesn't feel right"** feeling.
- You suspect someone is **using your network** without permission.

Things you can handle yourself

Reading the router sticker, looking up the password on your phone or computer, sharing it by QR code or Apple's tap-to-share, joining a network by scanning a code, and fixing an "incorrect password" message. These are all yours now. Keep this guide handy as your refresher.

FROM BILL

How I like to help

I'm Bill, and I bring 30+ years of professional experience to helping folks feel at home with their technology, right here in Portage County, Ohio. I don't rush, I don't talk down to anyone, and there's no such thing as a silly question. I can walk you through it over the phone or a screen share, or come to your home and reconnect every gadget myself: $49 remote · $99 in your home. Call **(330) 200-8042** or book at **billshometech.com/book**. If I'm with another client, Sophie, my AI receptionist, will take your details so I can call you back.

Thank you for taking the time to learn this. The Wi-Fi password is one of those small things that makes everything else easier, and now it's under your control.

— Bill

CHAPTER 28

Your Wi-Fi Password Cheat-Sheet

Keep this handy. The everyday moves, all in one place.

Finding it

On this device	Do this
The router	Look on the label for **Password**, **Network Key** or **WPA Key** next to the network name.
iPhone or iPad	Settings > Wi-Fi > tap the **i** by your network > tap **Password**. Or the **Passwords** app > Wi-Fi.
Google Pixel	Settings > Network & internet > Internet > gear by your network > **Share**.
Samsung Galaxy	Settings > Connections > Wi-Fi > gear by your network > **QR code**.
Windows 11	Settings > Network & internet > Wi-Fi > Manage known networks > your network > **View Wi-Fi security key**.
Mac (Sequoia or later)	**Passwords** app > Wi-Fi > your network.
Provider or router app	Look under Wi-Fi, Network or My Wi-Fi.

Sharing it

- **Apple to Apple:** visitor taps your network; you tap **Share Password**.
- **Anyone:** show a QR code (iPhone Passwords app: **Show Network QR Code**); they scan with their camera.
- **Regular visitors:** a guest network and a guest card on the fridge.

The safety rules

- Your internet company won't text or email you a link to "verify" your Wi-Fi password.
- Never give your Wi-Fi or router password to someone who calls you.
- Share the **guest** network with visitors, not your main one.
- Use **WPA2** or **WPA3** and a long, unguessable password.
- Reset the router only as a last resort. Restarting is harmless; resetting erases settings.
- When something feels off, stop and ask.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

You're in charge of your Wi-Fi now

You know where the password lives, how to see it, how to share it in seconds, and how to change it without stranding a single gadget. That's a genuinely useful skill, and it'll come up again and again. Keep this guide close, and enjoy being the one with the answer.

Bill's Home Tech · Complete Manuals Series · (330) 200-8042 · billshometech.com · Portage County, Ohio