# Wi-Fi 6 6E for the Internet of Things (IoT)

With its high speed, low latency and larger capacity, Wi-Fi 6 6e provides strong support for IoT devices, helping to achieve widespread connectivity and efficient operation of IoT applications such as smart homes and smart cities.

With the rapid development of Internet of Things (IoT) technology, the number of **IoT devices** around the world is growing exponentially. It is predicted that by 2025, the global number of IoT devices will reach nearly 55 billion.



Wi-Fi 6 6E for Smart City IoT Projects

These devices cover all fields from smart homes, industrial control, smart cities to medical and health care, and put higher requirements on the performance of wireless connectivity technology.

Against this background, Wi-Fi 6 (IEEE 802.11ax) and Wi-Fi 6E (extended to the 6GHz band) are the <u>new generation of wireless</u>

<u>LAN standards</u>. With their advanced technical characteristics, they

are gradually becoming key technologies in the Internet of Things field.

#### Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E Overview

#### 1. Wi-Fi 6

**Definition**: Wi-Fi 6, or IEEE 802.11ax, is the sixth generation wireless LAN standard, aiming to improve network capacity, reduce latency, enhance energy efficiency, and improve the overall user experience.

## **Key Features**:

Orthogonal frequency division multiple access (OFDMA): Split the channel into smaller subchannels (resource unit, RU), allowing one access point to communicate with multiple devices at the same time, improving spectrum efficiency and data transmission capabilities.

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Multiple User Multiple Input Multiple Output (MU-MIMO):

Allows multiple devices to communicate with a single access point at the same time, improving concurrent communication capabilities and network capacity.

**Target Wake-up Time (TWT)**: The device can enter a low-power state without transmitting data, save power, and extend the battery life of IoT devices.

**WPA3 Security Protocol**: Provides stronger encryption and authentication mechanisms to enhance network security.

**1024-QAM modulation technology**: Improve data transmission rate. Compared with the 256-QAM of Wi-Fi 5, the data transmission rate is increased by about 25% on average.

#### 2. Wi-Fi 6E

**Definition**: Wi-Fi 6E is an extended version of Wi-Fi 6 that extends to the 6GHz band in addition to supporting the 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands.

## **Advantages:**

**Wider channel bandwidth**: Supports 160MHz channel bandwidth, further improving data transmission rate.

**Less interference**: The 6GHz band is relatively clean and has less interference, which helps improve network performance and reliability.

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**Larger capacity**: Due to the increase in frequency band resources, Wi-Fi 6E can support more device connections to meet the needs of intensive deployment of IoT devices.

The application advantages of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E in the Internet of Things



#### Wi-Fi 6E for Urban IoT

## 1. High bandwidth and low latency

**High Bandwidth**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E adopt higher modulation technology and wider channel bandwidth to provide higher data transmission rates. For example, the theoretical maximum transmission rate of Wi-Fi 6 can reach 9.6Gbps, while Wi-Fi 6E can further improve the transmission rate in the 6GHz band. This is crucial for **IoT applications** that require the transmission of large amounts of data, such as high-definition video surveillance, telemedicine image transmission, etc.

**Low latency**: OFDMA and MU-MIMO technologies reduce device waiting time and reduce network latency. This is of great significance for IoT applications that require real-time response, such as industrial automation control, remote driving, etc.

# 2. Multiple device connection and efficient resource allocation

**Multi-device connection**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E support stable connections of a large number of devices. OFDMA technology allows one access point to communicate with multiple devices

simultaneously, and **MU-MIMO technology** allows multiple devices to communicate with a single access point simultaneously, significantly improving network capacity and device connection density.

**Efficient resource allocation**: Through an intelligent resource allocation mechanism, Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E can dynamically adjust resource allocation according to the needs of the device and network conditions to ensure that each device can obtain sufficient bandwidth and transmission quality.

#### 3. Low power consumption and long battery life

**Target Wake-up Time (TWT)**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E support TWT function, allowing devices to enter a low-power state without transmitting data. This is especially important for IoT devices that rely on battery power, which can significantly extend the battery life of the device and reduce maintenance costs.

**Energy Efficiency Optimization**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E have been optimized at the protocol level, reducing unnecessary signal transmission and reception, and further reducing the power consumption of the device.

# 4. Enhanced Security

**WPA3 Security Protocol**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E adopt WPA3 security protocol, providing a stronger encryption and authentication mechanism. This helps prevent unauthorized access and malicious attacks, protecting the data security and privacy of loT devices.

**Security Updates and Patch Management**: The Wi-Fi Alliance regularly releases security updates and patches to ensure the continued security of Wi-Fi 6 and **Wi-Fi 6E devices**.

Application cases of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E in the <u>Internet of</u>

<u>Things</u>

#### 1. Smart Home

**Smart Device Connection**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E support the simultaneous connection of a large number of smart devices, such as smart light bulbs, smart sockets, **smart cameras**, etc. These devices can achieve remote control and data interaction through Wi-Fi networks, improving the convenience and security of home

life.

High-definition video streaming: The high bandwidth and low latency features provided by Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E support high-definition video streaming applications in smart homes, such as smart doorbells, smart surveillance cameras, etc. Users can view real-time images at home anytime, anywhere through their mobile phones or tablets.

#### 2. Industrial Internet of Things

**Automation Control**: The low latency and high reliability features of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E make it ideal for industrial automation control. Through Wi-Fi networks, real-time communication and collaborative work between devices can be realized, improving production efficiency and quality.

**Equipment monitoring and maintenance**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E support stable connections and data transmission of a large number of devices, which can realize remote monitoring and maintenance of industrial equipment. This helps to promptly identify and resolve issues, reducing maintenance costs and downtime.



Wi-Fi 6 6E for Industrial IoT

# 3. **Smart City**

**Intelligent transportation**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E support device connection and data transmission in intelligent transportation systems, such as smart street lights, smart parking systems, etc.

These devices can achieve remote control and data interaction

through Wi-Fi networks, improving the efficiency and security of urban traffic.

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Environmental Monitoring: The high bandwidth and low latency characteristics of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E support environmental monitoring applications in smart cities, such as air quality monitoring, noise monitoring, etc. This data can be transmitted to the data center in real time via Wi-Fi network for analysis and processing.

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# 4. Medical Internet of Things

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**Telehealth**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E support real-time transmission of high-definition medical images, such as remote ultrasound, remote surgical guidance, etc. This helps to achieve the optimal allocation and sharing of medical resources and improve the accessibility and quality of medical services.

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**Medical Equipment Connection**: Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E support stable connection and data transmission of a large number of medical devices, such as smart infusion pumps, smart hospital beds, etc. These devices can be remotely monitored and controlled through Wi-Fi networks, improving the efficiency and security of medical services.

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The market prospects and challenges of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E

# 1. Market prospect

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**Growth of market demand**: With the continuous development of IoT technology and the continuous expansion of application scenarios, the demand for high-performance wireless connection technology will continue to grow. With their advanced technical characteristics, Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E are gradually becoming mainstream technologies in the Internet of Things field.

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**Policy Support**: Governments are actively promoting the construction of digital infrastructure and increasing support for new generation information technologies such as 5G and Wi-Fi 6. This will help promote the application and promotion of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E in the Internet of Things field.

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#### 2. Challenge

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**Spectrum resource allocation**: Spectral resource allocation in the 6GHz band is a global issue. Different countries and regions have different policies on the allocation and use of the 6GHz frequency band, which may affect the popularity and application of Wi-Fi 6E on a global scale.

**Device Compatibility and Interoperability**: With the increasing number of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E devices, device compatibility and interoperability have become an important issue. Compatibility and

interoperability between different vendors and devices needs to be ensured for seamless connection and data transfer.

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**Cybersecurity**: With the continuous increase in Internet of Things devices and the continuous expansion of application scenarios, network security issues are becoming increasingly prominent. It is necessary to strengthen security protection and management of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E networks to ensure data security and privacy protection.

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# Technical development trends of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E

1. Higher transmission rates and lower latency

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More advanced modulation technology: In the future, Wi-Fi standards may adopt more advanced modulation technology, such as 4096-QAM, to further improve the data transmission rate.

Wider channel bandwidth: With the continuous release and

optimization of spectrum resources, Wi-Fi networks will support wider channel bandwidth, further reducing network latency.

2. Best device connection and resource management

**Smarter device connection management**: In the future, Wi-Fi networks will support smarter device connection management functions, such as automatic discovery and configuration, device priority management, etc., to improve the convenience and efficiency of device connection.

More efficient resource allocation mechanism: In the future,
Wi-Fi networks will adopt more efficient resource allocation
mechanisms, such as dynamic spectrum allocation, intelligent traffic
scheduling, etc., to ensure that each device can obtain sufficient
bandwidth and transmission quality.

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#### 3. Stronger security and privacy protection

**Enhanced Authentication Mechanism**: Future Wi-Fi standards may introduce stricter authentication mechanisms to ensure that only authorized devices can access the network, thus preventing unauthorized access and potential cyber attacks.

**Privacy protection technology**: As users pay more attention to privacy protection, future Wi-Fi technology may integrate more privacy protection technologies, such as data anonymization, differential privacy, etc., to ensure the security and privacy of user data during transmission.

# 4. Wide coverage and stronger penetration

**Enhanced signal transmission technology**: In order to expand the coverage of Wi-Fi networks and improve the penetration ability of signals, future Wi-Fi technologies may adopt more advanced signal transmission technologies, such as beamforming, multipath transmission, etc.

**Intelligent antenna system**: The intelligent antenna system can dynamically adjust the direction and gain of the antenna according to the position and signal strength of the device, thereby

optimizing signal transmission effect and improving network coverage and penetration capabilities.

## 5. More efficient energy management

**Low-power mode optimization**: Future Wi-Fi technology may further optimize the low-power mode, allowing devices to enter deeper sleep when they do not transmit data, thereby reducing power consumption and extending device battery life.

**Energy Awareness Scheduling**: By introducing an energy awareness scheduling mechanism, future Wi-Fi networks can dynamically adjust data transmission rates and frequency according to the energy state of the equipment and network load conditions to achieve more efficient energy utilization.

## 6. Integration with other technologies such as 5G

**Multi-access edge computing (MEC)**: Future Wi-Fi networks may be integrated with other technologies such as 5G networks to achieve more efficient data processing and transmission through technologies such as multi-access edge computing.

**Network slicing technology**: Network slicing technology allows the network to be divided into multiple virtual networks according

to different application scenarios and needs. Future Wi-Fi networks may be integrated with 5G networks, etc., and jointly support network slicing technology to meet the diverse needs in IoT applications.

Future Prospects of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E in the Internet of Things

#### 1. Promote the innovative development of IoT applications

The high performance characteristics of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E will provide strong support for the innovative development of IoT applications. With the continuous maturity and popularization of technology, more and more IoT applications will emerge, such as smart homes, smart cities, Industry 4.0, etc. These applications will profoundly change people's lifestyles and work methods.

# 2. Promote the coordinated development of the IoT industry

The widespread application of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E will promote the coordinated development of the **loT industry**. With the popularization of technology and the expansion of application scenarios, all links in the loT industry chain will cooperate more

closely to jointly promote the development and growth of the IoT industry.

#### 3. Improve the user experience of IoT applications

The high bandwidth, low latency, and multi-device connection characteristics of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E will significantly improve the user experience of IoT applications. Users will be able to enjoy smoother, more stable, and more efficient IoT services, thereby improving the quality of life and work efficiency.

# 4. Promote the standardization and normalization of IoT technology

With the widespread application of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E in the IoT, the standardization and normalization of IoT technology will be further promoted. This will help ensure compatibility and interoperability between different manufacturers and devices, and promote the popularization and application expansion of IoT technology.

In summary, as a new generation of wireless LAN standards, Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E are gradually becoming key technologies in the field

of IoT with their advanced technical characteristics and wide application scenarios.

In the future, with the continuous development and innovation of technology, Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E will play a more important role in the field of IoT, promote the innovative development of IoT applications, promote the coordinated development of the IoT industry, enhance the user experience of IoT applications, and promote the standardization and normalization of IoT technology.



Wi-Fi 6 for the Internet of Things

#### **About IoT Cloud Platform**

**IOT Cloud Platform** (**blog.iotcloudplatform.com**) focuses on IOT solutions, sensors, smart homes, smart cities, **IoT design**, RFID, lora devices, IoT systems, **IoT modules**, new energy, **WiFi IoT** and other technological knowledge and products.

#### **FAQs**

FAQs and answers about Wi-Fi 6/6E for IoT:

#### What are Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 6E?

**Wi-Fi 6** (also known as 802.11ax) is the sixth generation of Wi-Fi standard, providing higher bandwidth, lower latency and better multi-device connectivity.

**Wi-Fi 6E** is an extended version of Wi-Fi 6, adding a 6GHz band, providing an additional 1.2GHz bandwidth, supporting more non-overlapping channels and reducing network congestion.

# How does Wi-Fi 6/6E support IoT?

**High bandwidth**: Supports high-bandwidth applications such as 4K and 8K streaming, virtual reality games, etc.

Low latency: Suitable for latency-sensitive applications such as

industrial automation and smart healthcare.

**Multi-device connection**: Supports a large number of devices to connect simultaneously, improving network capacity and efficiency. **Security**: Supports WPA3 security protocol and provides stronger encryption and authentication mechanisms.

#### What are the advantages of Wi-Fi 6E over Wi-Fi 6?

**More bandwidth**: The 6GHz band provides an additional 1.2GHz bandwidth and supports more non-overlapping channels.

**Reduce congestion**: The 6GHz band provides additional spectrum resources when the 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands are congested.

**Improve experience**: In crowded environments such as apartment buildings and commercial venues, users can get a better network connection experience.

#### How do IoT devices benefit from Wi-Fi 6/6E?

**Smart home**: Supports devices such as smart speakers, security cameras, and smart thermostats to achieve seamless collaboration.

**Industrial automation**: Supports real-time communication between sensors and devices to improve production efficiency.

**Smart City**: Supports real-time data transmission of devices such as traffic lights and surveillance cameras to improve urban management efficiency.

**Telemedicine**: Supports real-time data transmission of medical devices to improve the quality of medical services.

What are the conditions for using Wi-Fi 6/6E?

**Routers that support Wi-Fi 6/6E**: Users need to upgrade to routers that support Wi-Fi 6/6E.

**Devices that support Wi-Fi 6/6E**: IoT devices need to support Wi-Fi 6/6E standards.

**Spectrum support**: The 6GHz band needs to be opened for unlicensed use in the area.

What is the coverage of Wi-Fi 6E?

**Relatively short**: Due to the shorter signal wavelength of the 6GHz band, the coverage of Wi-Fi 6E may not be as good as that of the 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands.

**Layout needs to be considered**: In large buildings or complex environments, Wi-Fi extenders or repeaters may be required.

Does Wi-Fi 6/6E support low power consumption?

**Yes**: Wi-Fi 6 introduces Target Wake Time (TWT) technology, which allows devices to negotiate wake-up time with access points, reduce unnecessary radio wake-ups, and extend battery life.

**Friendly to IoT devices**: Especially suitable for IoT devices that rely on battery power, such as sensors and wearable devices.

How secure is Wi-Fi 6/6E?

**Very secure**: Supports WPA3 security protocol, providing strong encryption and authentication mechanisms.

**Interoperability**: The Wi-Fi Alliance's certification program ensures interoperability between different devices.

#### What is the market outlook for Wi-Fi 6/6E?

**Growing rapidly**: With the explosive growth of IoT devices, the market size of Wi-Fi 6/6E is expected to continue to grow.

**Accelerated popularization**: More countries and regions have approved the 6GHz frequency band for unlicensed use, and the popularity of Wi-Fi 6E is expected to increase significantly in the next few years.

#### How to choose a Wi-Fi 6/6E solution for IoT?

**Consider requirements**: Select the appropriate Wi-Fi 6/6E solution based on the application scenarios and bandwidth requirements of IoT devices.

**Evaluate device compatibility**: Ensure that IoT devices support the Wi-Fi 6/6E standard.

**Consider cost-effectiveness**: Evaluate the cost of upgrading to Wi-Fi 6/6E and the performance improvement it brings.