

Digi Cellular to Wi-Fi Products: Which Wi-Fi Mode to Choose?

Digi offers a selection of Wi-Fi to cellular routers that provide users with wireless connectivity to remote sites and devices. The purpose of this piece is to demonstrate which applications are a good fit for the ConnectPort™ WAN Wi (ad hoc mode) and which applications work best with the Digi Wi-Point 3G™ (access point mode).

Common Wi-Fi Applications for ConnectPort WAN Wi (Ad Hoc Mode)

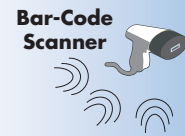
What is Wi-Fi Ad Hoc Mode?

Also known as peer-to-peer, Wi-Fi ad hoc mode allows all wireless devices to discover and communicate directly with one another, without involving central access points. Additionally, a peer can be configured as a gateway to provide WAN (or Internet) access to the rest of the peers.

Peer on Wi-Fi (Ad Hoc) Network

All devices on the local Wi-Fi network can freely communicate with each other.

ConnectPort™ WAN Wi

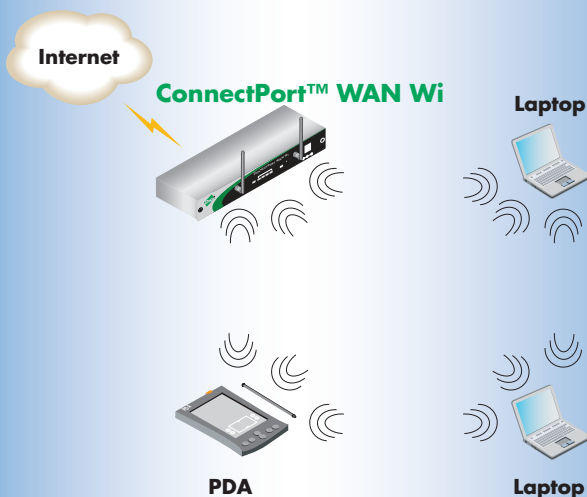


PDA

Laptop

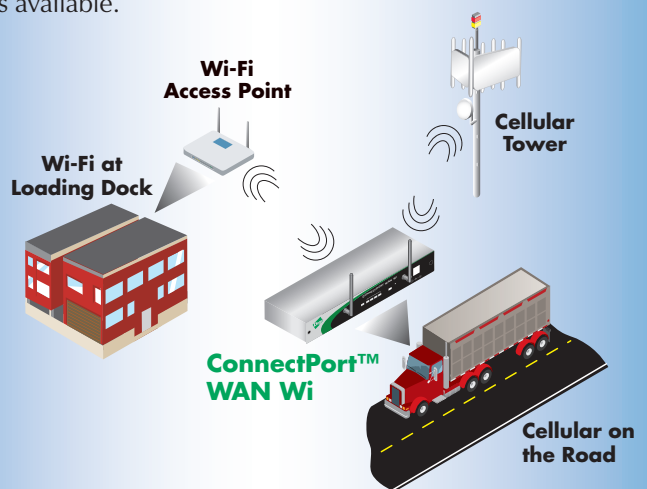
WAN (Internet) Gateway for Peers

ConnectPort Wan Wi acts as a gateway to the Internet as a peer on a Wi-Fi ad hoc network.



Auto-Switch from Cellular to Wi-Fi (Ad Hoc)

ConnectPort WAN Wi acts as a mobile router client with the ability to use cellular or Wi-Fi as WAN, depending on which is available.



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Limitations of Wi-Fi Ad Hoc Network

- As all peers are equals, devices are able to communicate directly with each other. This may be desirable for some applications, since users would require privacy on the local network. It would not be advisable for a public hotspot. For public Wi-Fi hotspot applications, the optimal solution is a Wi-Fi access point (see Digi Wi-Point 3G below).
- Ad hoc mode is not for users roaming from one Wi-Fi network to another for clients using a peer as a gateway. Mobile users roaming from Wi-Fi network to Wi-Fi network are better suited for Wi-Fi access point mode (see Digi Wi-Point 3G below).

Common Wi-Fi Application for Digi Wi -Point 3G (Access Point Mode)

What is Wi-Fi Access Point Mode?

Wi-Fi access point mode, also known as infrastructure (or hotspot) mode, uses a centralized Wi-Fi access point to allow wireless devices to connect to the Internet or a corporate LAN. Access point mode is a desirable solution for public hotspot applications where users require access to the Internet, yet need privacy from each other.

Digi Wi-Point 3G is a Wi-Fi to cellular 3G VPN router that targets applications requiring Wi-Fi access point mode. Digi Wi-Point 3G uses a cellular PC card to provide WAN/Internet access via hotspot mode to a group of Wi-Fi users.

Wi-Fi Access Point Hotspot

Access point mode is a desirable solution for public hotspot applications where users require access to the Internet, yet need privacy from each other.

