User Guide

AX5400 Multi-Gigabit Wi-Fi 6 Router
Archer AX72 Pro

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About This Guide

This guide is a complement of Quick Installation Guide. The Quick Installation Guide instructs you on quick internet setup, and this guide provides details of each function and shows you the way to configure these functions appropriate to your needs.

Note: Features available in the router may vary by model and software version. Router availability may also vary by region or ISP. All images, steps, and descriptions in this guide are only examples and may not reflect your actual Router experience.

Conventions

In this guide the following conventions are used:

Convention	Description
Underlined	Underlined words or phrases are hyperlinks. You can click to redirect to a website or a specific section.
Teal	Contents to be emphasized and texts on the web page are in teal, including the menus, items, buttons, etc.
>	The menu structures to show the path to load the corresponding page. For example, Advanced > Wireless > WDS means the WDS function page is under the Wireless menu that is located in the Advanced tab.
Note:	Ignoring this type of note might result in a malfunction or damage to the device.
Tips:	Indicates important information that helps you make better use of your device.
symbols on the web page	• Click to edit the corresponding entry. • Click to delete the corresponding entry. • click to enable or disable the corresponding entry. • Click to view more information about items on the page.

More Info

The latest software, management app and utility can be found at Download Center at https://www.tp-link.com/support/download/.

The Quick Installation Guide can be found where you find this guide or inside the package of the router.

Specifications can be found on the product page at https://www.tp-link.com.

TP-Link Community is provided for you to discuss our products and share knowledge at https://community.tp-link.com.

Our Technical Support contact information can be found at the Contact Technical Support page at https://www.tp-link.com/support/.

*Maximum wireless signal rates are the physical rates derived from IEEE Standard 802.11 specifications. Actual wireless data throughput and wireless coverage are not guaranteed and will vary as a result of 1) environmental factors, including building materials, physical objects, and obstacles, 2) network conditions, including local interference, volume and density of traffic, product location, network complexity, and network overhead, and 3) client limitations, including rated performance, location, connection, quality, and client condition.

*Use of Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax), and features including OFDMA, MU-MIMO, 1024-QAM, and HT160 require clients to also support the corresponding features.

*Saving clients' battery power requires clients to also support the 802.11ax Wi-Fi standard. Actual power reduction may vary as a result of network conditions, client limitations, and environmental factors.

*Use of WPA3 requires clients to also support the corresponding feature.

*This router may not support all the mandatory features as ratified in Draft 3.0 of IEEE 802.11ax specification.

*Further software upgrades for feature availability may be required.

Chapter 1

Get to Know About Your Router

This chapter introduces what the router can do and shows its appearance.

It chapter contains the following sections:

- Product Overview
- Appearance

1. 1. Product Overview

TP-Link AX router, with next-generation 802.11ax Wi-Fi Technology, achieves Wi-Fi performance at its ultimate level. The revolutionary combination of OFDMA and 1024QAM improve throughput by 4 times and dramatically increase the whole network capacity and efficiency. It's also backwards compatible with 802.11a/b/g/n/ac.

Moreover, it is simple and convenient to set up and use the TP-Link router due to its intuitive web interface and the powerful Tether app.

1. 2. Appearance

1. 2. 1. Top Panel

The router's LEDs (view from left to right) are located on the front. You can check the router's working status by following the LED Explanation table.

LED Explanation

Name	Status	Indication
(Power)	On	The system has started up successfully.
	Flashing	The system is starting up or the firmware is being upgraded. Do not disconnect or power off your router.
	Off	Power is off.
(2.4 GHz Wireless)	On	The 2.4 GHz wireless band is enabled.
	Off	The 2.4 GHz wireless band is disabled.

Name	Status	Indication
(5 GHz Wireless)	On	The 5 GHz wireless band is enabled.
	Off	The 5 GHz wireless band is disabled.
(Internet)	Green On	Internet service is available.
	Orange On	The router's Internet port is connected, but the internet service is not available.
	Off	The router's Internet port is unplugged.
(Ethernet)	On	At least one powered-on device is connected to the router's Ethernet port.
	Off	No powered-on device is connected to the router's Ethernet port.
(USB)	On	The inserted USB device is ready to use.
	Blinking	A USB device is being identified.
	Off	No device is plugged into the USB port.
(WPS)	On/Off	This light remains on for 5 minutes when a WPS connection is established, then turns off.
	Blinking	WPS connection is in progress. This may take up to 2 minutes.

1. 2. 2. Back Panel

The following parts (view from left to right) are located on the back panel.

Button and Port Explanation

Item	Description
LED Button	Press the LED button for 1 second to turn on or off the LEDs of your router.

Item	Description
WPS Button	Press this WPS button, and immediately press the WPS button on your client device to start the WPS process. The LED of the router should change from blinking to solid on, indicating successful WPS connection.
Wi-Fi Button	Press and hold the Wi-Fi button for more than 2 seconds to turn on or off the wireless function of your router.
Reset Button	Press and hold the button until the Power LED blinks to reset the router to its factory default settings.
LAN Port (1-3)	For connecting your PC or other wired devices to the router.
1 Gbps WAN/LAN Port	For connecting to your modem, the Ethernet outlet or other internet devices. Used as the WAN or LAN port.
2.5 Gbps WAN/LAN Port	For connecting to your modem, the Ethernet outlet or other internet devices. Used as the WAN or LAN port.
Power On/Off Button	Press this button to power on or off the router.
Power Port	For connecting the router to a power socket via the provided power adapter.

1. 2. 3. Side Panel

The following part is located on the side panel.

Button and Port Explanation

Item	Description
USB 3.0 Port	For connecting a USB storage device to the router.

Chapter 2

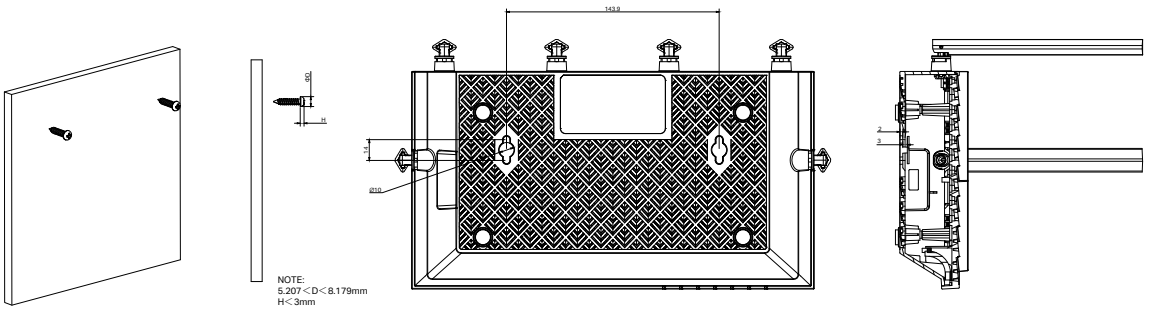
Connect the Hardware

This chapter contains the following sections:

- Position Your Router
- Connect Your Router

2. 1. Position Your Router

- The product should not be located in a place where it will be exposed to moisture or excessive heat.
- Place the router in a location where it can be connected to multiple devices as well as to a power source.
- Make sure the cables and power cord are safely placed out of the way so they do not create a tripping hazard.
- The router can be placed on a shelf or desktop.
- Keep the router away from devices with strong electromagnetic interference, such as Bluetooth devices, cordless phones and microwaves.
- Generally, the router is placed on a horizontal surface, such as on a shelf or desktop. The device also can be mounted on the wall as shown in the following figure.



Note:

The diameter of the screw head, 5.207mm<D<8.179mm, and the distance of two screws is 143.9mm. The screw that project from the wall need around 5mm based, and the length of the screw need to be at least 20mm to withstand the weight of the product.

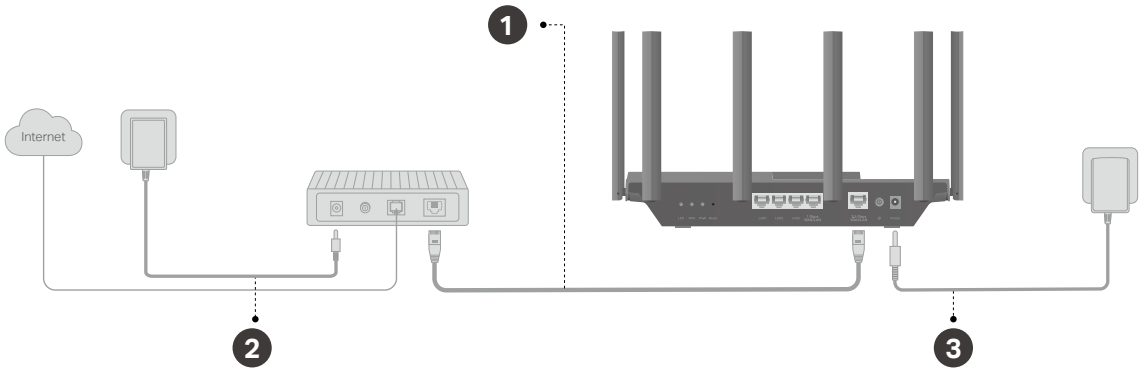
2. 2. Connect Your Router

Before you start:

1) Turn off your modem, if any, and remove the backup battery if it has one.

2) Place the router horizontally and orient the antennas vertically.

If your internet comes from an Ethernet outlet instead of a DSL / Cable / Satellite modem, connect the router's WAN port to it, then follow steps 3 and 4 to complete the hardware connection.



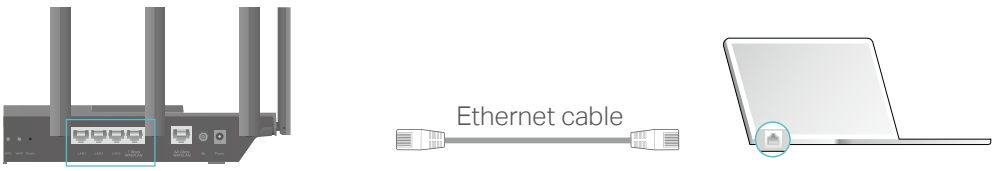
1. Connect the powered-off modem to the router's 2.5 Gbps WAN/LAN port with an Ethernet cable.
2. Turn on the modem, and then wait about **2 minutes** for it to restart.
3. Connect the power adapter to the router and turn on the router.
4. Verify that the hardware connection is correct by checking the following LEDs.

Power	2.4 GHz	5 GHz	Internet
On	On	On	On

5. Connect your computer to the router.

- **Method 1: Wired**

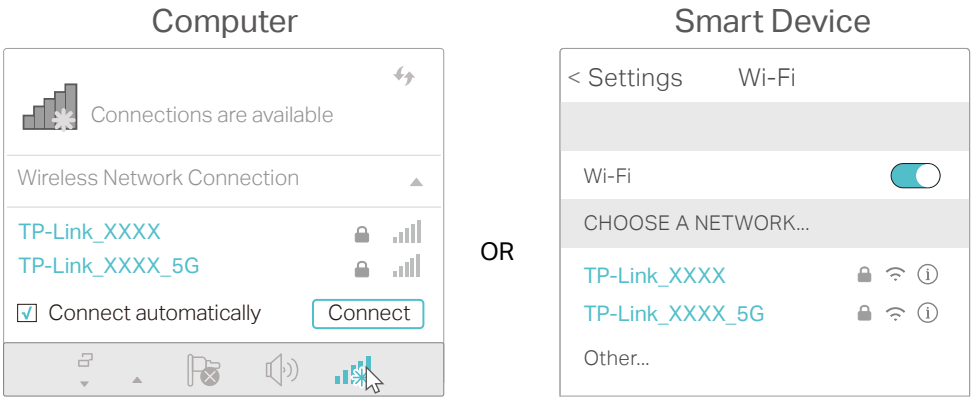
Turn off the Wi-Fi on your computer and connect the devices as shown below.



- **Method 2: Wirelessly**

1) Find the SSID (Network Name) and Wireless Password printed on the label at the bottom of the router.

2) Click the network icon of your computer or go to Wi-Fi Settings of your smart device, and then select the SSID to join the network.



- **Method 3: Use the WPS button**

Wireless devices that support WPS, including Android phones, tablets, and most USB network cards, can be connected to your router through this method.

Note:

- WPS is not supported by iOS devices.
- The WPS function cannot be configured if the wireless function of the router is disabled. Also, the WPS function will be disabled if your wireless encryption is WEP. Please make sure the wireless function is enabled and is configured with the appropriate encryption before configuring the WPS.

1) Tap the WPS icon on the device's screen. Here we take an Android phone for instance.

2) Within two minutes, press the WPS button on your router.

Chapter 3

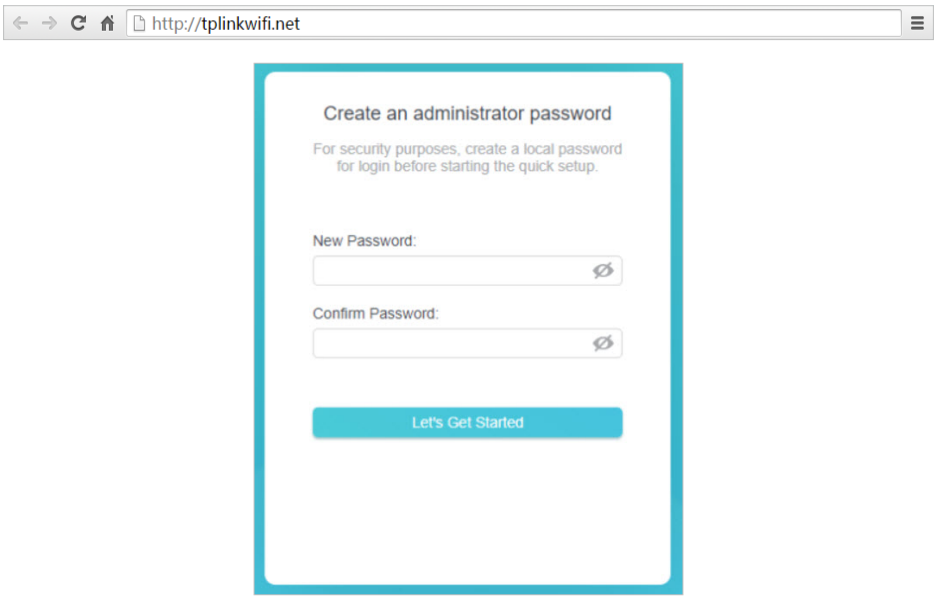
Log In to Your Router

With a web-based utility, it is easy to configure and manage the router. The web-based utility can be used on any Windows, Mac OS or UNIX OS with a Web browser, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox or Apple Safari.

Follow the steps below to log in to your router.

1. Set up the TCP/IP Protocol in Obtain an IP address automatically mode on your computer.
2. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and create a login password for secure management purposes. Then click Let's Get Started to log in.

Note: If the login window does not appear, please refer to the FAQ Section.



Chapter 4

Set Up Internet Connection

This chapter introduces how to connect your router to the internet. The router is equipped with a web-based Quick Setup wizard. It has necessary ISP information built in, automates many of the steps and verifies that those steps have been successfully completed. Furthermore, you can also set up an IPv6 connection if your ISP provides IPv6 service.

It contains the following sections:

- Use Quick Setup Wizard
- Quick Setup Via TP-Link Tether App
- Manually Set Up Your Internet Connection
- Set Up the Router as an Access Point
- Set Up an IPv6 Internet Connection

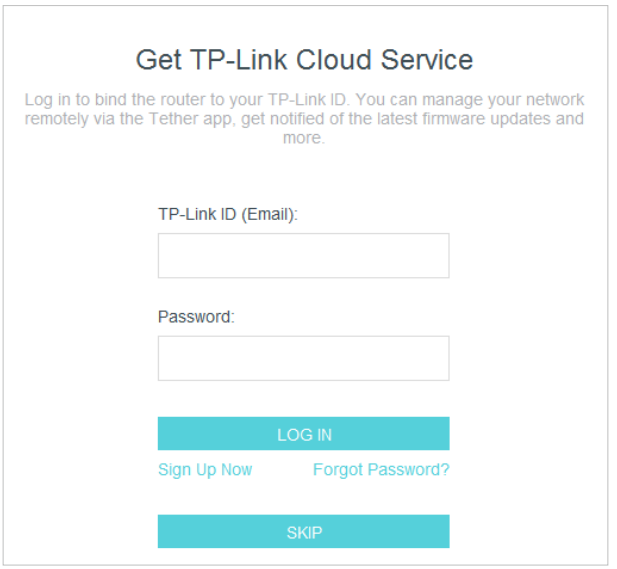
4. 1. Use Quick Setup Wizard

The Quick Setup Wizard will guide you to set up your router.

Tips:
If you need the IPv6 internet connection, please refer to the section of Set Up an IPv6 Internet Connection.

Follow the steps below to set up your router.

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with the password you set for the router.
2. Follow the step-by-step instructions to complete Quick Setup configuration or go to Advanced > Quick Setup for configuration to connect your router to the internet. Then follow the step-by-step instructions to connect your router to the internet.
3. To enjoy a more complete service from TP-Link (remote management, TP-Link DDNS, and more.), log in with your TP-Link ID or click Sign Up Now to get one. Then follow the instructions to bind the cloud router to your TP-Link ID.



Note:
- To learn more about the TP-Link Cloud service, please refer to the TP-Link Cloud Service section.
- If you do not want to register a TP-Link ID now, you may click Skip to proceed.
- If you have changed the preset wireless network name (SSID) and wireless password during the Quick Setup process, all your wireless devices must use the new SSID and password to connect to the router.

4. 2. Quick Setup Via TP-Link Tether App

The Tether app runs on iOS and Android devices, such as smartphones and tablets.

1. Launch the Apple App Store or Google Play store and search "TP-Link Tether" or simply scan the QR code to download and install the app.

2. Launch the Tether app and log in with your TP-Link ID.

Note: If you don't have a TP-Link ID, create one first.

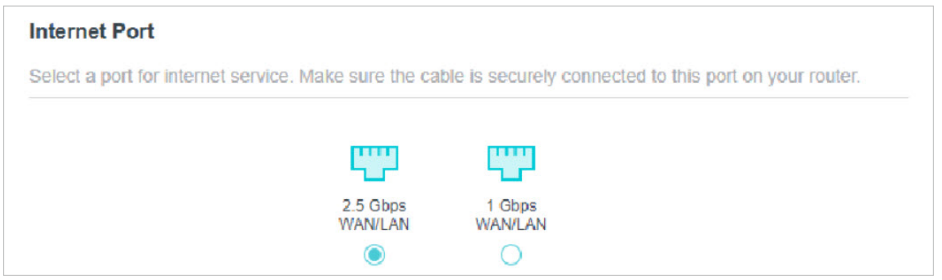
3. Tap the + button and select Router > Wireless Router. Follow the steps to complete the setup and connect to the internet.
4. Connect your devices to the newly configured wireless networks of the router and enjoy the internet!

4. 3. Manually Set Up Your Internet Connection

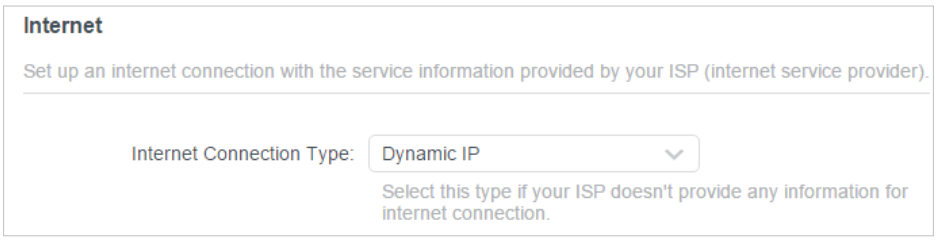
In this part, you can check your current internet connection settings. You can also modify the settings according to the service information provided by your ISP.

Follow the steps below to check or modify your internet connection settings.

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with your TP-Link ID or the password you set for the router.
2. Go to Internet.
3. Select a port for internet service. Make sure the cable is securely connected to this port on your router.

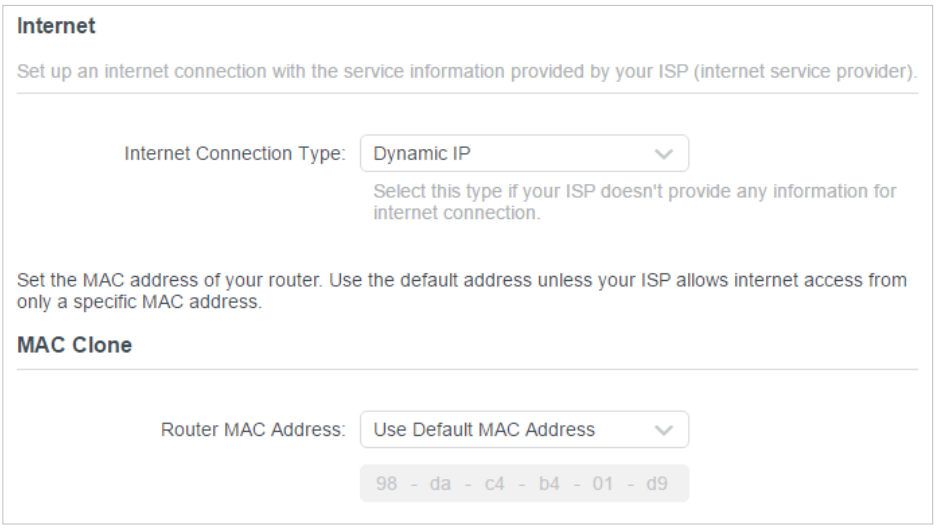


4. Select your internet connection type from the drop-down list.

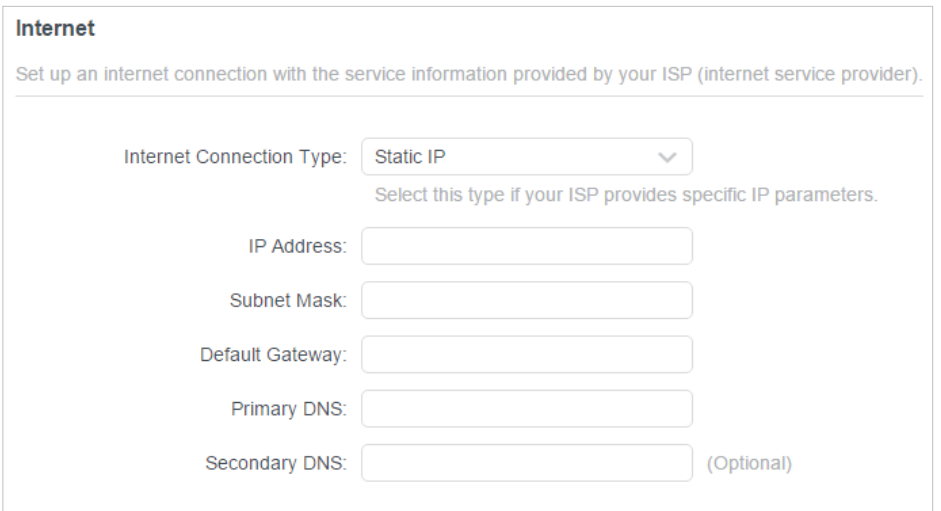


5. Follow the instructions on the page to continue the configuration. Parameters on the figures are just used for demonstration.

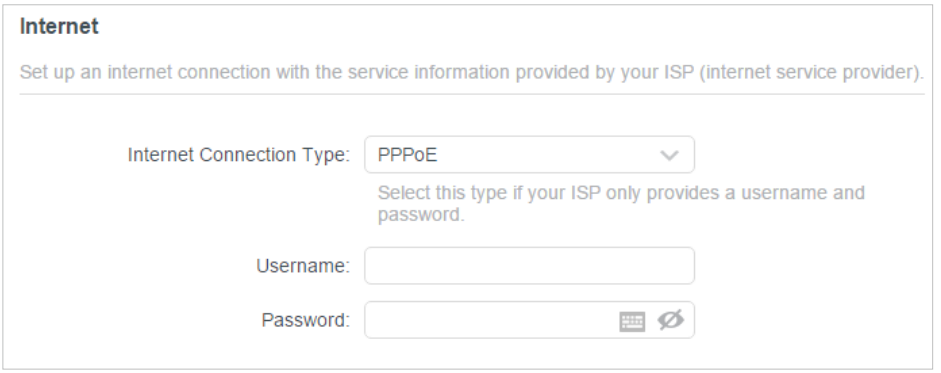
1) If you choose Dynamic IP, you need to select whether to clone the MAC address. Dynamic IP users are usually equipped with a cable TV or fiber cable.



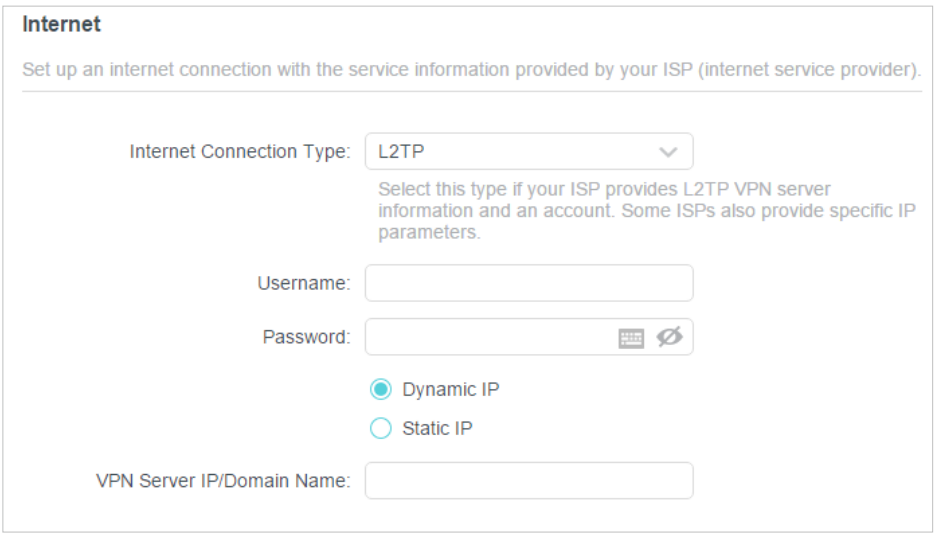
2) If you choose Static IP, enter the information provided by your ISP in the corresponding fields.



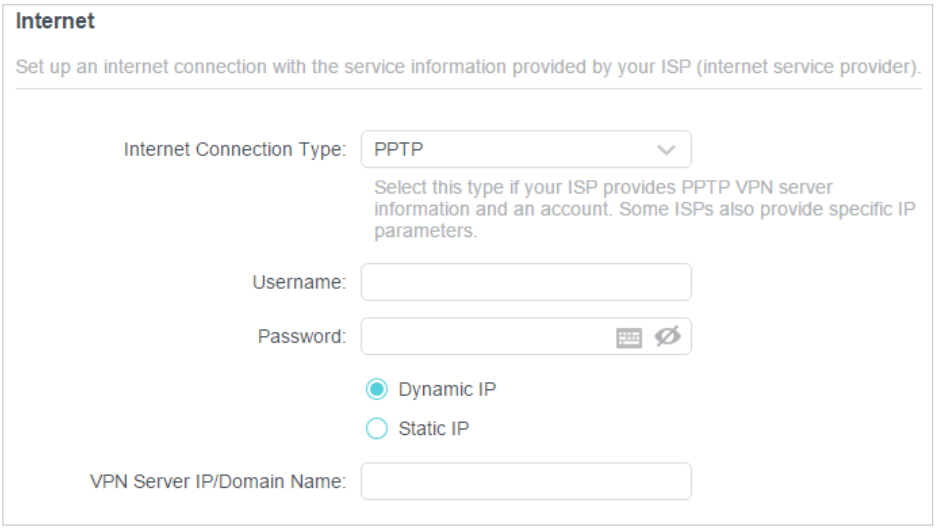
3) If you choose PPPoE, enter the username and password provided by your ISP. PPPoE users usually have DSL cable modems.



4) If you choose L2TP, enter the username and password and choose the Secondary Connection provided by your ISP. Different parameters are needed according to the Secondary Connection you have chosen.



5) If you choose PPTP, enter the username and password, and choose the Secondary Connection provided by your ISP. Different parameters are needed according to the Secondary Connection you have chosen.



6. Click SAVE.

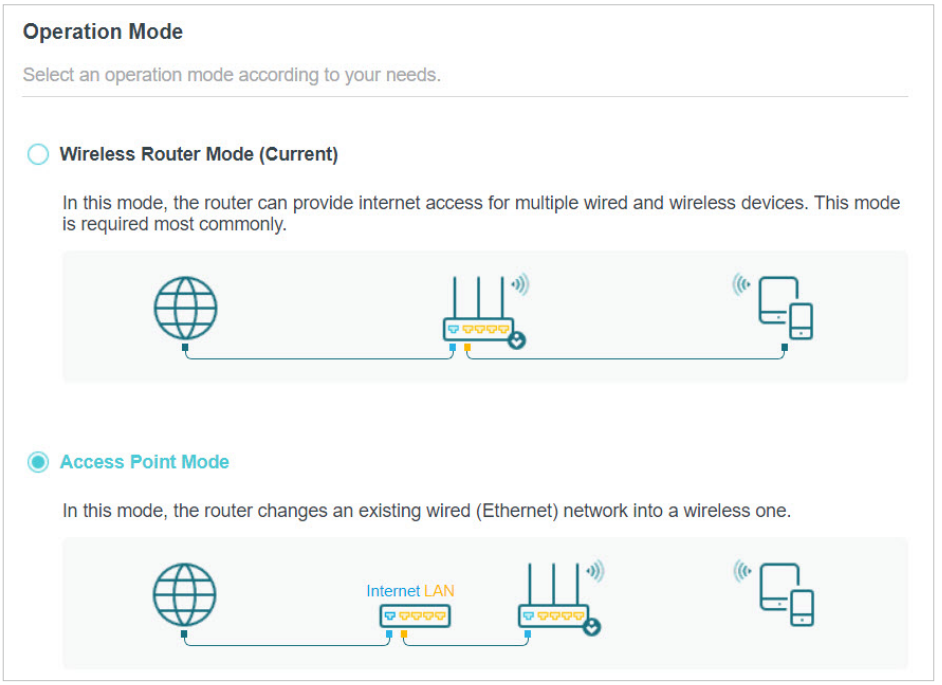
Tips:

- If you use Dynamic IP and PPPoE and you are provided with any other parameters that are not required on the page, please go to Advanced > Network > Internet to complete the configuration.
- If you still cannot access the internet, refer to the FAQ section for further instructions.

4. 4. Set Up the Router as an Access Point

The router can work as an access point, transforming your existing wired network to a wireless one.

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with your TP-Link ID or the password you set for the router.
2. Go to Advanced > System > Operation Mode, select Access Point and click SAVE. The router will reboot and switch to Access Point mode.



3. After rebooting, connect the router to your existing wired router via an Ethernet cable.
4. Log in again to the web management page http://tplinkwifi.net, and go to Advanced > Quick Setup.
5. Configure your wireless settings and click Next.
6. Confirm the information and click SAVE. Now, you can enjoy Wi-Fi.

Tips:
- Functions, such as Parental Controls, QoS and NAT Forwarding, are not supported in the Access Point mode.
- Functions, such as Guest Network, are the same as those in the Router mode.

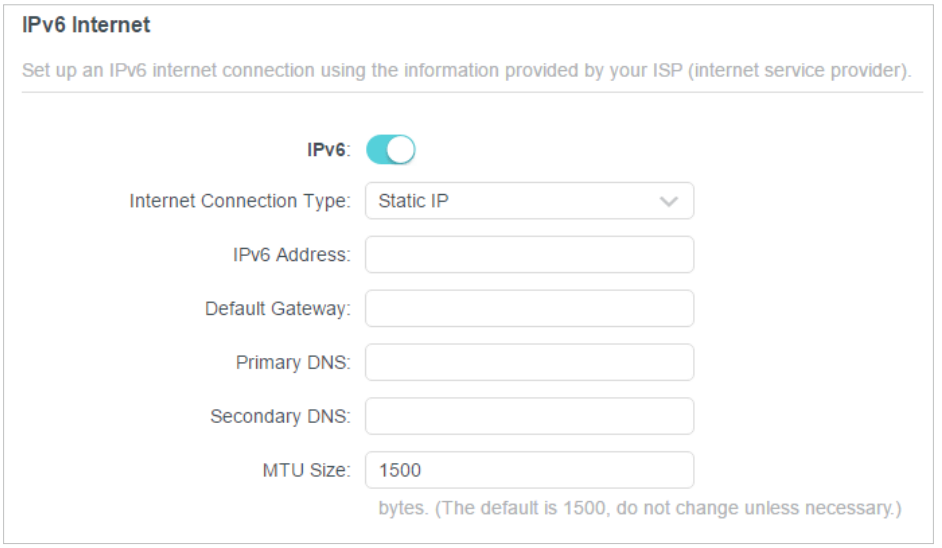
4. 5. Set Up an IPv6 Internet Connection

Your ISP provides information about one of the following IPv6 internet connection types: PPPoE, Dynamic IP(SLAAC/DHCPv6), Static IP, 6to4 tunnel, Pass-Through (Bridge).

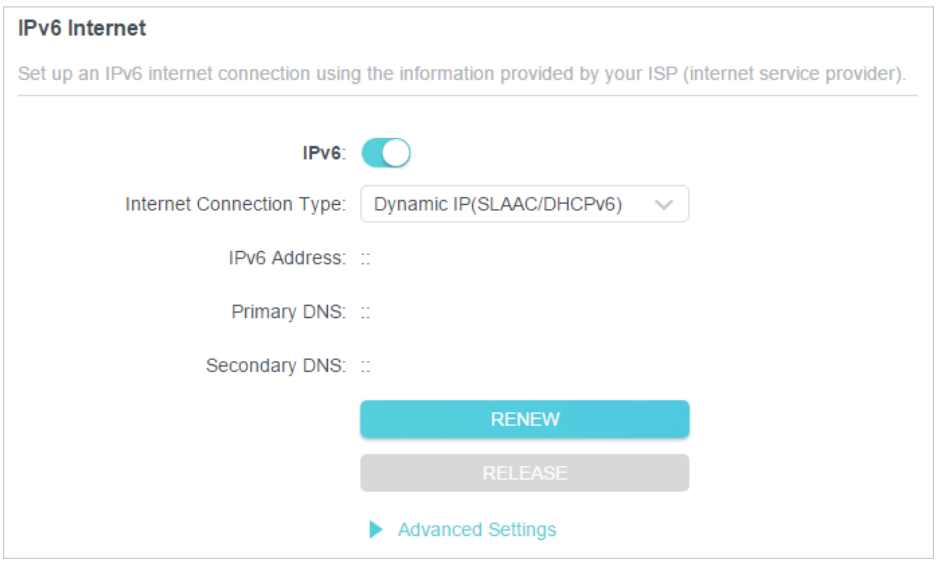
1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with your TP-Link ID or the password you set for the router.
2. Go to Advanced > IPv6.
3. Enable IPv6 and select the internet connection type provided by your ISP.

Tips:
If you do not know what your internet connection type is, contact your ISP or judge according to the already known information provided by your ISP.

4. Fill in information as required by different connection types.
   1) Static IP: Fill in blanks and click SAVE.



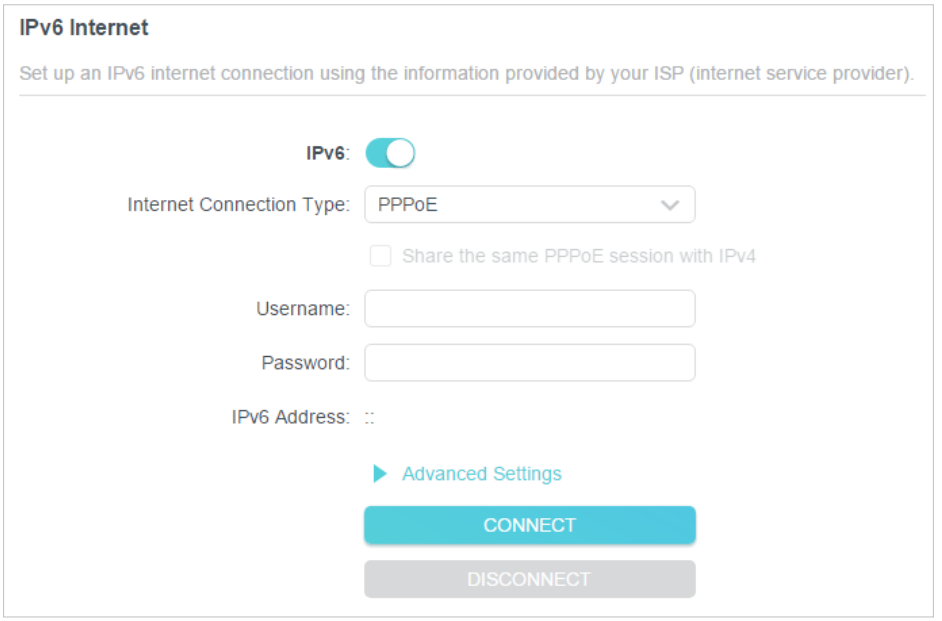
2) Dynamic IP(SLAAC/DHCPv6): Click Advanced to input further information if your ISP requires. Click SAVE and then click Renew.



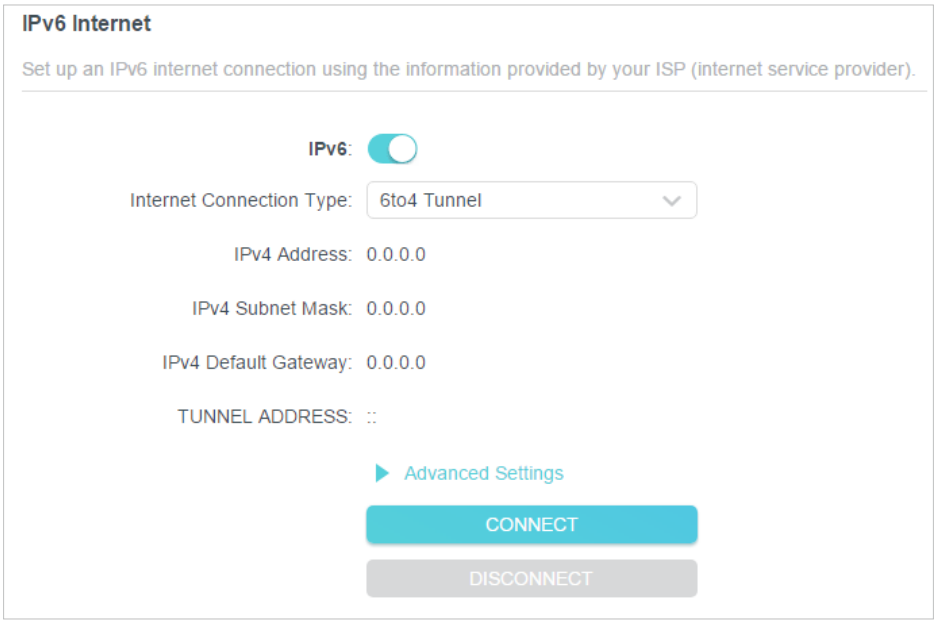
3) PPPoE: By default, the router uses the IPv4 account to connect to the IPv6 server. Click Advanced to input further information if your ISP requires. Click SAVE and then click Connect.

Note:

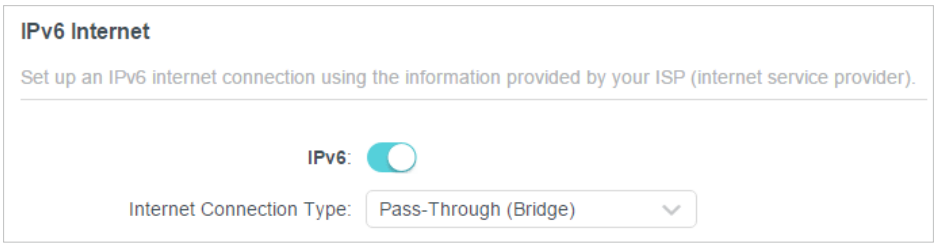
If your ISP provides two separate accounts for the IPv4 and IPv6 connections, manually enter the username and password for the IPv6 connection.



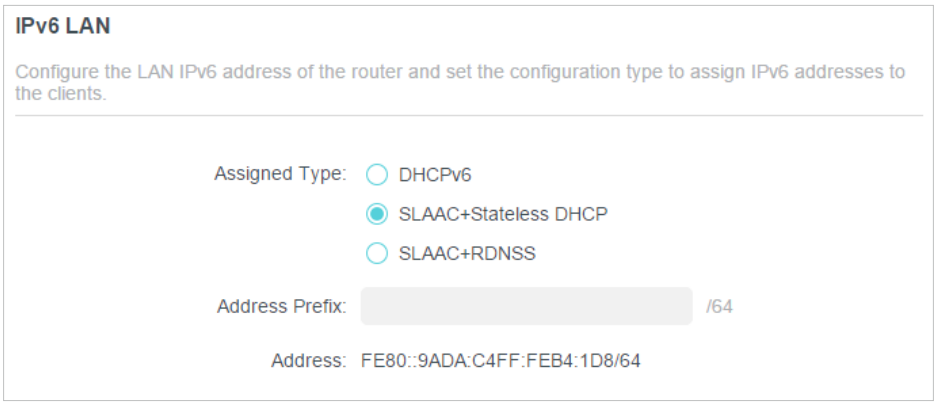
4) 6to4 Tunnel: An IPv4 internet connection type is a prerequisite for this connection type (Manually Set Up Your Internet Connection). Click Advanced to input further information if your ISP requires. Click SAVE and then click Connect.



5) Pass-Through (Bridge): Click SAVE and skip to Step 6.



5. Configure LAN ports. Windows users are recommended to choose from the first two types. Fill in Address Prefix provided by your ISP, and click SAVE.



6. Click Status to check whether you have successfully set up an IPv6 connection.

Tips:
Visit the FAQ section if there is no internet connection.

Chapter 5

TP-Link Cloud Service

TP-Link Cloud service provides a better way to manage your cloud devices. Log in to your router with a TP-Link ID, and you can easily monitor and manage your home network when you are out and about via the Tether app. To ensure that your router stays new and gets better over time, the TP-Link Cloud will notify you when an important firmware upgrade is available. Surely you can also manage multiple TP-Link Cloud devices with a single TP-Link ID.

This chapter introduces how to register a new TP-Link ID, bind or unbind TP-Link IDs to manage your router, and the Tether app with which you can manage your home network no matter where you may find yourself.

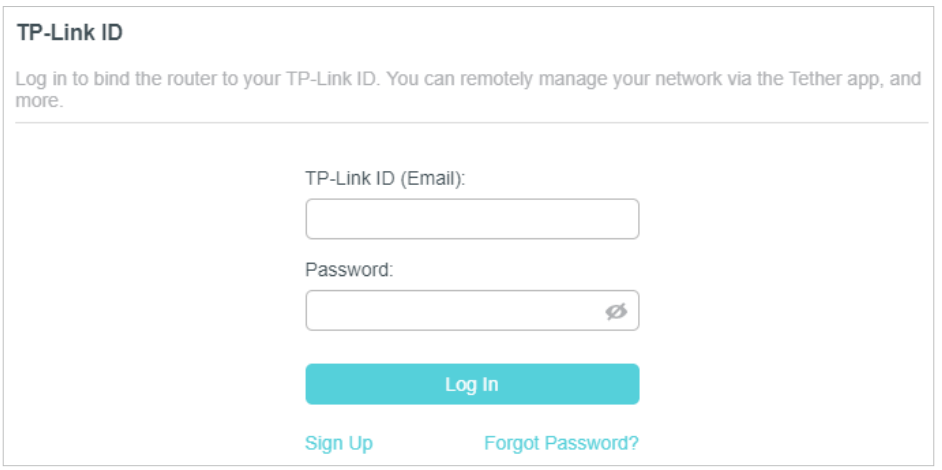
It contains the following sections:

- Register a TP-Link ID
- Change Your TP-Link ID Information
- Manage the User TP-Link IDs
- Manage the Router via the TP-Link Tether App

5. 1. Register a TP-Link ID

If you have skipped the registration during the Quick Setup process, you can:

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with the password you set for the router.
2. Go to Advanced > TP-Link ID or click TP-Link ID on the very top of the page.
3. Click Sign Up and follow the instructions to register a TP-Link ID.



4. After activating your TP-Link ID, come back to the TP-Link ID page to log in. The TP-Link ID used to log in to the router for the first time will be automatically bound as an Admin.

Note:

- To learn more about the Admin and User TP-Link ID, refer to Manage the User TP-Link IDs.
- Once you have registered a TP-Link ID on the web management page, you can only register another TP-Link ID via the Tether APP. Please refer to Manage the Router via the TP-Link Tether App to install the app.
- If you want to unbind the admin TP-Link ID from your router, please go to Advanced > TP-Link ID, an click Unbind in the Device Information section.

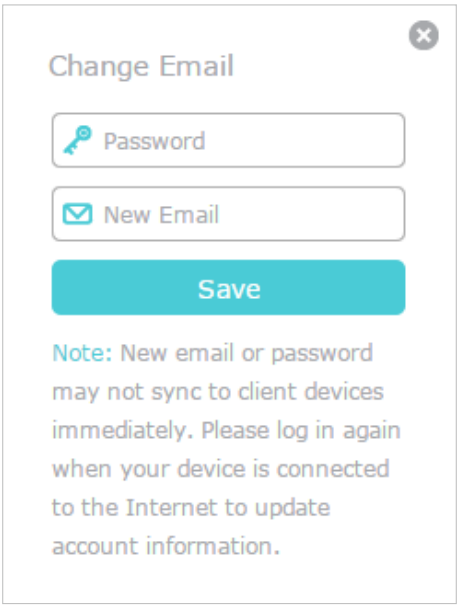
5. 2. Change Your TP-Link ID Information

Follow the steps below to change your email address and password of your TP-Link ID as needed.

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with your TP-Link ID.
2. Go to Advanced > TP-Link ID, and focus on the Account Information section.

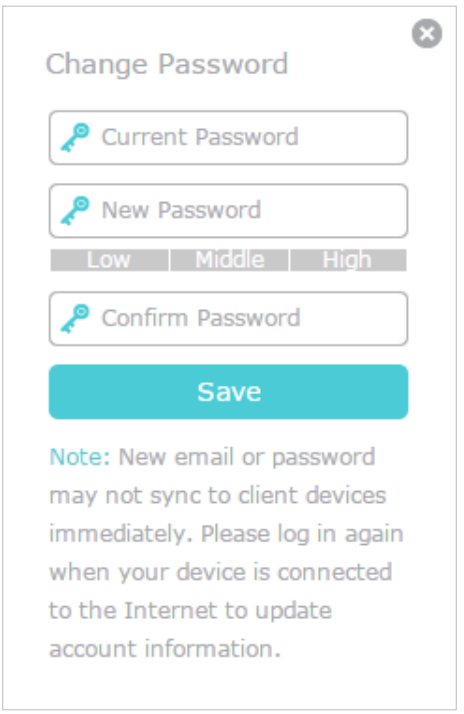
- **To change your email address**:

1. Click behind the Email.
2. Enter the password of your TP-Link ID, then a new email address. And click SAVE.



- **To change your password:**

1. Click behind the Password.
2. Enter the current password, then a new password twice. And click SAVE.



5. 3. Manage the User TP-Link IDs

The TP-Link ID used to log in to the router for the first time will be automatically bound as the Admin account. An admin account can add or remove other TP-Link IDs to or

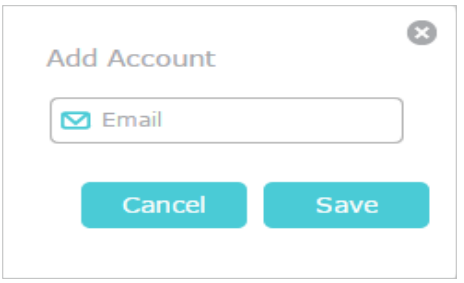
from the same router as Users. All accounts can monitor and manage the router locally or remotely, but user accounts cannot:

- Reset the router to its factory default settings either on the web management page or in the Tether app.
- Add/remove other TP-Link IDs to/from the router.

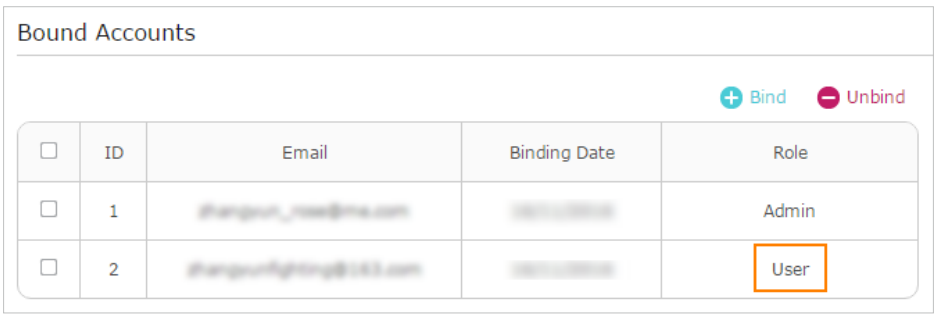
5. 3. 1. Add TP-Link ID to Manage the Router

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with your TP-Link ID.
2. Go to Advanced > TP-Link ID, and focus on the Bound Accounts section.
3. Click Bind , enter another TP-Link ID as needed and click SAVE.

Note: If you need another TP-Link ID, please register a new one via the Tether app. Refer to Manage the Router via the TP-Link Tether App to install the app and register a new TP-Link ID.

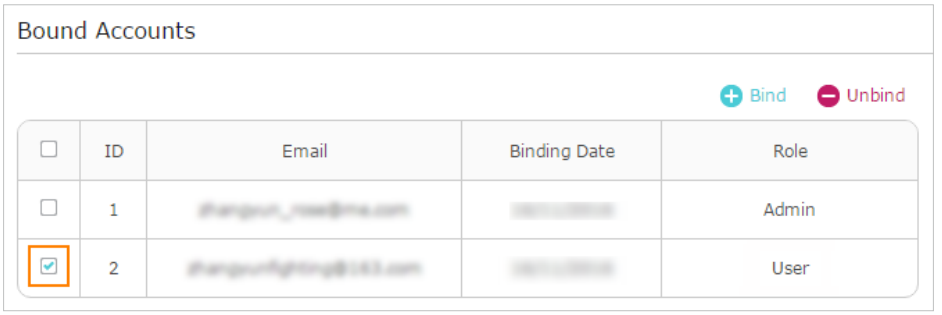


4. The new TP-Link ID will be displayed in the Bound Accounts table as a User.



5. 3. 2. Remove TP-Link ID(s) from Managing the Router

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with your TP-Link ID.
2. Go to Advanced > TP-Link ID, and focus on the Bound Accounts section.
3. Tick the checkbox(es) of the TP-Link ID(s) you want to remove and click Unbind.



5. 4. Manage the Router via the TP-Link Tether App

The Tether app runs on iOS and Android devices, such as smartphones and tablets.

1. Launch the Apple App Store or Google Play store and search "TP-Link Tether" or simply scan the QR code to download and install the app.

2. Launch the Tether app and log in with your TP-Link ID.

Note: If you don't have a TP-Link ID, create one first.

3. Connect your device to the router's wireless network.
4. Go back to the Tether app, select the model of your router and log in with the password you set for the router.
5. Manage your router as needed.

Note: If you need to remotely access your router from your smart devices, you need to:

- Log in with your TP-Link ID. If you don't have one, refer to Register a TP-Link ID.
- Make sure your smartphone or tablet can access the internet with cellular data or a Wi-Fi network.

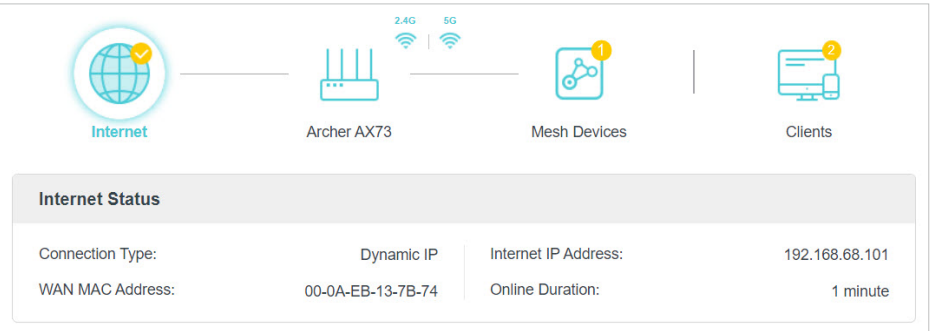
Chapter 6

Network Map

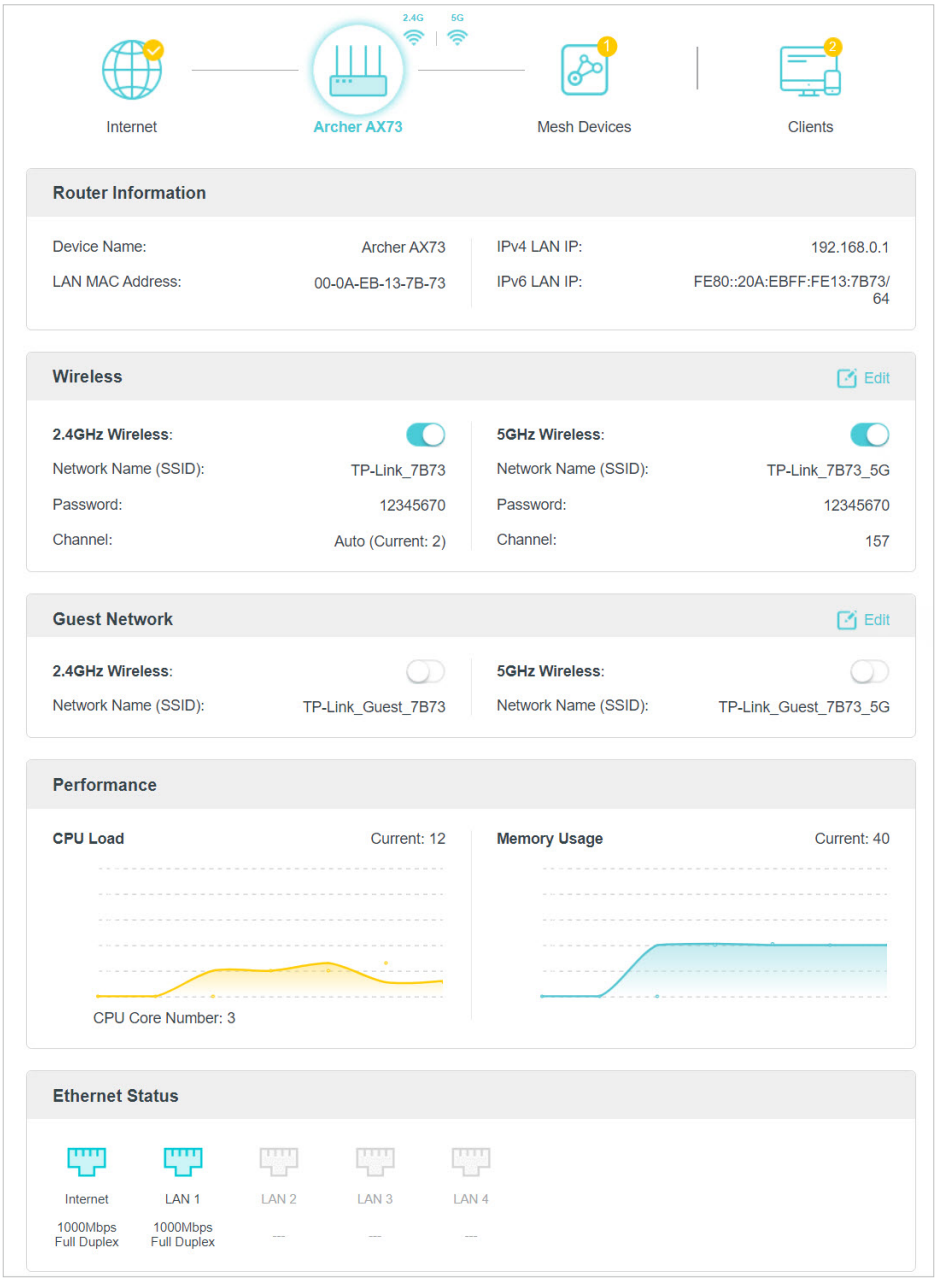
Network Map outlines device connectivity of your network visually and helps you manage general settings of the network.

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with your TP-Link ID or the password you set for the router.
2. Go to Network Map.
3. Click each network device icon to check and manage general network settings.

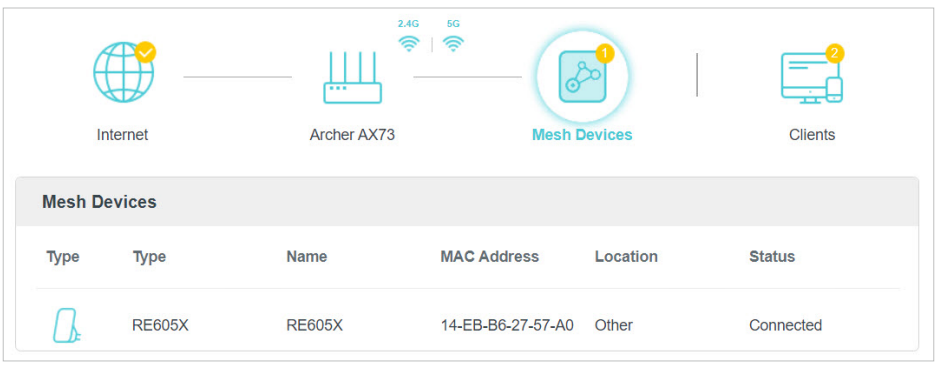
- Click Internet to check internet status.



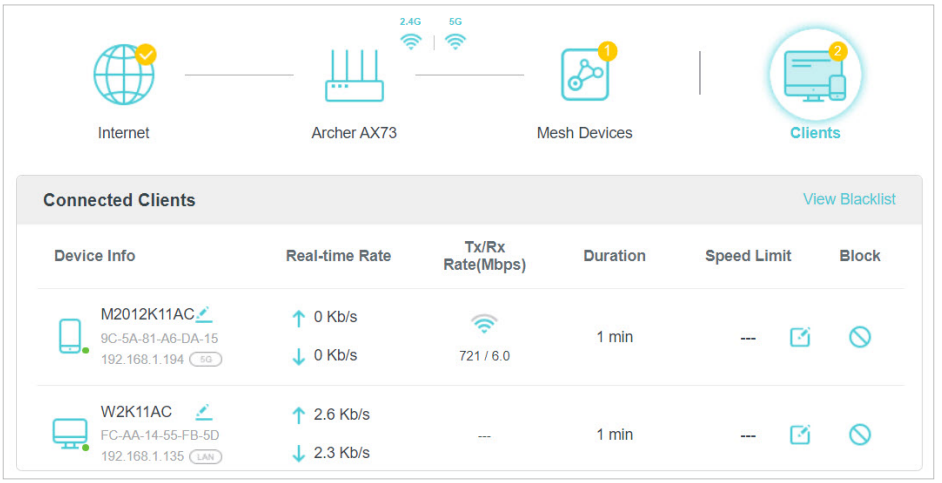
- Click the router to check device status and network settings. You can turn on or off the wireless network or guest network, or click Edit to change related settings.



- Click Mesh Devices to view the devices that form a mesh network with the router.

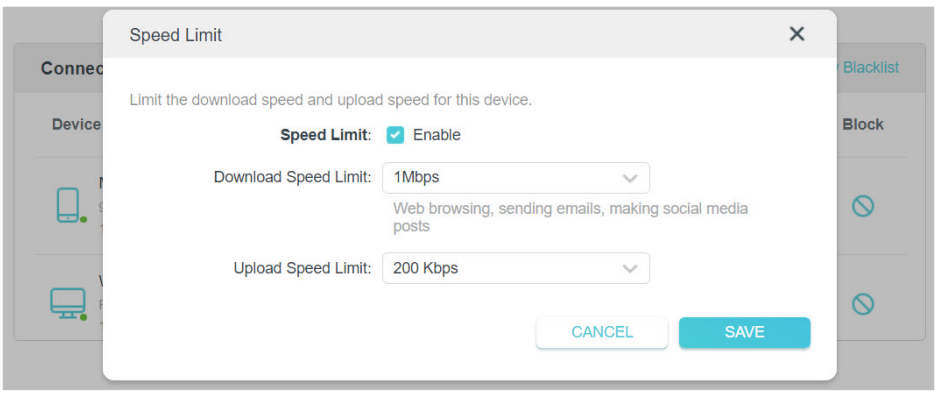


- Click Clients to view the client devices in your network. You can block devices so they cannot access your network, or set Speed Limit to limit their upload and download speeds.



To limit the speeds of a device:

1. Click in the Speed Limit column.
2. Enable Speed Limit.
3. Set the download and upload speed limit according to your needs.
4. Click SAVE. The speeds of the device will be limited.



Chapter 7

Wireless Settings

This chapter guides you on how to configure the wireless settings.

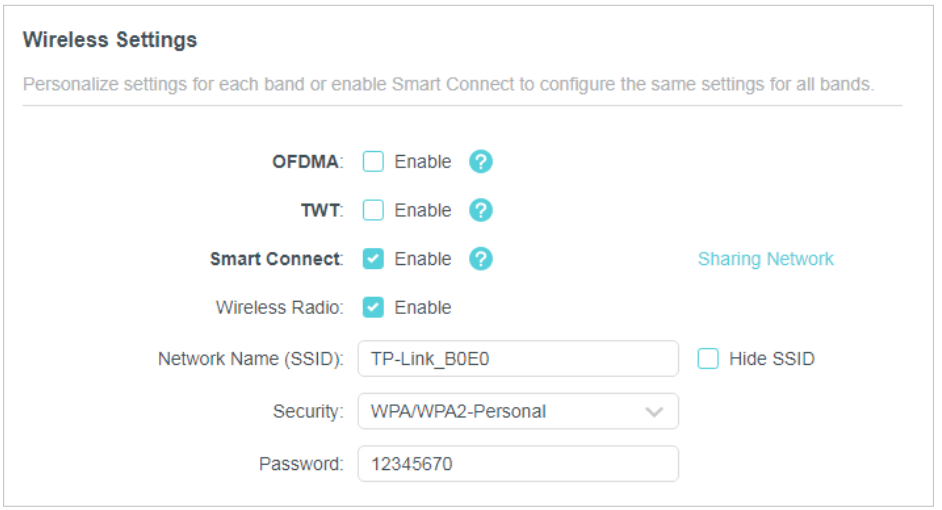
It contains the following sections:

- Specify Wireless Settings
- Schedule Your Wireless Function
- Use WPS for Wireless Connection
- Advanced Wireless Settings

7. 1. Specify Wireless Settings

The router's wireless network name (SSID) and password, and security option are preset in the factory. The preset SSID and password can be found on the label of the router. You can customize the wireless settings according to your needs.

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with your TP-Link ID or the password you set for the router.
2. Go to Wireless or Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.



- **To enable or disable OFDMA:**

OFDMA enables multiple users to transmit data simultaneously, and thus greatly improves speed and efficiency. Noted that only when your clients also support OFDMA, can you fully enjoy the benefits. It is disabled by default.

1. Go to Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.
2. Enable OFDMA.

- **To enable or disable TWT:**

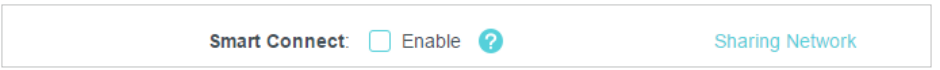
TWT (Target Wake Time) allows 802.11ax routers and clients to negotiate their periods to transmit and receive data packets. Clients only wake up at TWT sessions and remain in sleep mode for the rest of the time, which significantly extend their battery life. It is disabled by default.

1. Go to Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.
2. Enable TWT.

- **To use the Smart Connect function:**

The Smart Connect function lets you enjoy a more high-speed network by assigning your devices to best wireless bands based on actual conditions to balance network demands.

1. Go to Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.
2. Enable Smart Connect.



3. Keep the default values or set a new SSID and password, and click SAVE. This SSID and password will be applied for the 2.4GHz and 5GHz wireless networks. If you want to configure the wireless settings separately for each band, untick the checkbox to disable this feature.

- **To enable or disable the wireless function:**

1. Go to Wireless or Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.
2. The wireless function is enabled by default. If you want to disable the wireless function of the router, just untick the Enable checkbox of each wireless network. In this case, all the wireless settings will be invalid.

- **To change the wireless network name (SSID) and wireless password:**

1. Go to Wireless or Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.
2. Create a new SSID in Network Name (SSID) and customize the password for the network in Password. The value is case-sensitive.

Note: If you change the wireless settings with a wireless device, you will be disconnected when the settings are effective. Please write down the new SSID and password for future use.

- **To hide SSID:**

1. Go to Wireless or Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.
2. Select Hide SSID, and your SSID won't display when you scan for local wireless networks on your wireless device and you need to manually join the network.

- **To change the security option:**

1. Go to Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.
2. Select an option from the Security drop-down list: None, WPA/WPA2-Personal, WPA2/WPA3-Personal, WPA/WPA2-Enterprise. We recommend you don't change the default settings unless necessary.

- **To change the transmit power and channel settings:**

1. Go to Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.
2. Select an option from the Transmit Power drop-down list: High, Middle or Low. The default and recommended setting is High.
3. If Smart Connect is disabled, you can also change the following settings:
   - Channel Width - Select a channel width (bandwidth) for the wireless network.

- Channel - Select an operating channel for the wireless network. It is recommended to leave the channel to Auto, if you are not experiencing the intermittent wireless connection issue.
- Mode - Select a transmission mode according to your wireless client devices. It is recommended to just leave it as default.

- **To use the MU-MIMO function:**

The MU-MIMO (Multi-User Multiple-Input Multiple-Output) feature enables the router to simultaneously send data to multiple devices, significantly enhancing the network efficiency.

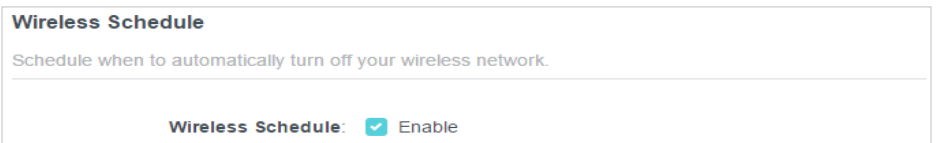
1. Go to Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Settings.
2. Make sure Smart Connect is disabled, and enable MU-MIMO for the 5 GHz band.

Note: MU-MIMO works only on the 5 GHz band and thus is not available when Smart Connect is enabled.

7. 2. Schedule Your Wireless Function

The wireless network can be automatically off at a specific time when you do not need the wireless connection.

1. Visit http://tplinkwifi.net, and log in with your TP-Link ID or the password you set for the router.
2. Go to Advanced > Wireless > Wireless Schedule.
3. Enable the Wireless Schedule feature.



4. Click Add to specify a wireless off period during which you need the wireless off automatically, and click SAVE.