

Comparing in-building wireless solutions

Solving for indoor cellular connectivity is no longer an option, but you do have choices. Which solution is right for you depends on several factors. To help narrow down your search, start with this quick guide.

Voice Over WiFi



Best for: Small businesses with few users and limited voice and data traffic.

Pros

- WiFi is widely used and known to end users
- Inexpensive to deploy and use
- Network operator involvement is not required

Cons

- Not a business-class solution
- No performance guarantees
- Minimized capacity to handle both voice and data simultaneously
- Unable to prioritize traffic
- Inability to hand-off calls from other networks
- Requires users to log on to WiFi network

Repeaters



Best for: Smaller offices/businesses with little data traffic and few users in areas where outside networks can afford to share capacity.

Pros

- Low cost, easy to buy and deploy
- Widely used and familiar
- Lowered regulations make deployment easier

Cons

- Bad setup can damage carriers' networks
- Share capacity with neighboring tower sites
- Only feasible for smaller buildings
- Limited flexibility for upgrades
- Macro tower changes can render system useless overnight

Small Cells



Best for: Businesses with many users that use cellular data and voice but rely on a single carrier and few frequencies.

Pros

- Relatively inexpensive individually and widely available
- Business-grade solution
- Suitable single-operator coverage solution

Cons

- Not a multi-carrier solution
- Cost and complexity increases if you need to support multiple carriers
- Too many small cells can degrade office aesthetics

DAS



Best for: Larger buildings with many users needing networks that can simultaneously run cellular data and voice supporting multiple operators.

Pros

- Reliable coverage throughout the building
- Most solutions can support multiple carriers and frequencies with minimal investment
- All-fiber cabling makes installation less expensive, easier, and less intrusive
- Capable of using all commercially deployed frequencies
- Supports carrier efforts to aggregate bandwidth for superior 4G/5G performance
- Better use and tailoring of cellular capacity than other options

Cons

- Can be more expensive than other in-building solutions