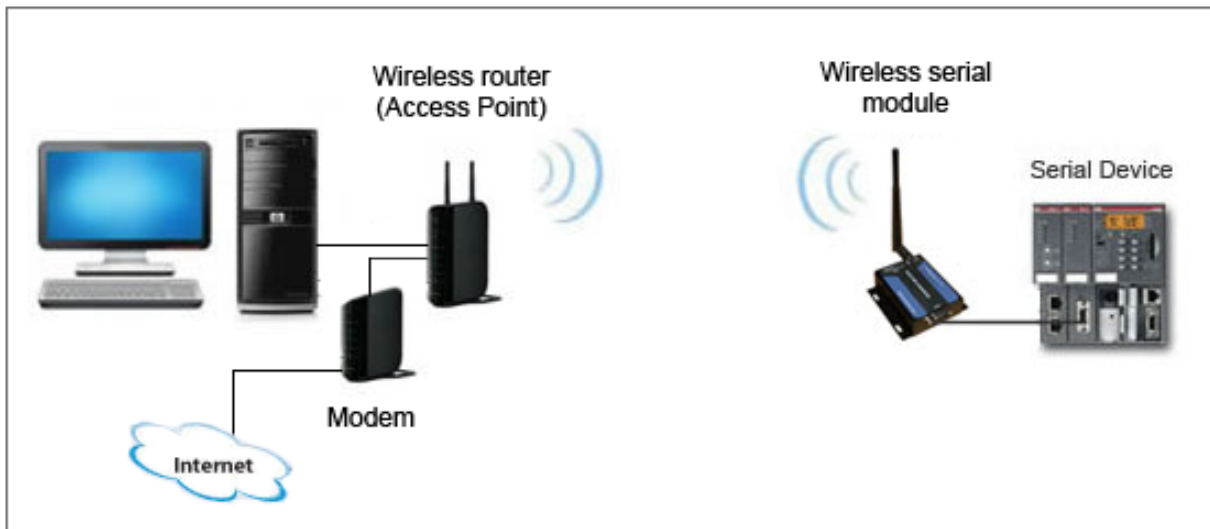


Ad hoc vs Infrastructure Networks What's the difference?

Computers and other devices that support Wi-Fi can connect to two primary types of network:

Access Point (AP) networks are also called infrastructure networks.

This is where a computer connects to a local area network (LAN) and the Internet using a wireless router. In infrastructure mode, every wireless device on the network links up with a central access point, which usually is a wireless router. Below is an illustration of a simple infrastructure network:



Ad hoc networks.

In an Ad hoc network the wireless devices do not require a wireless router, instead they can connect directly with each other. Multiple wireless devices can connect directly via Wi-Fi. To set up an Ad hoc network, one device begins transmitting a network ID and listens for incoming connections. The devices form a network among themselves and the data processing is routed internally instead of through an external router. Ad hoc networks can include an Internet connection that is shared by one of the linked devices but are usually used for local networking. Below is an illustration of a simple Ad hoc network:

