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r/HomeNetworking • 7 mo. ago
lifereinspired



WiFi Spatial Streams - how much do they matter?

Advice

Hi,

I'm trying to better understand WiFi spatial streams, particularly in the newer WiFi specs (6/6e/7). I can't quite figure whether it's primarily marketing or if having more spatial streams equates to actual better connections and device speeds - or if there's some truth to both. I've read numerous articles but with varying perspectives, I still don't know what to think.

My current router/gateway/AP is an AmpliFi Alien (by Ubiquiti) but the single unit setup - not the mesh. It's rated at WiFi 6, 16 spatial streams, and 3K sq ft of coverage. But we don't reliably get 100% WiFi coverage in our 1K sq ft apartment because we are limited in placement since the all-in-one router/switch/WiFi AP design necessitates us keeping the unit close to where the internet enters the apartment (at the far outside wall). So it can't be very centrally located.

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It's just about bandwidth. The more spacial streams it has, the more antennas it has, the more data it can send and receive simultaneously. Personally I don't think i could ever saturate close to 6 let alone 8. But it doesn't improve your range, just bandwidth to/from the router.

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It depends, multiples antennas allow often beamforming that does concentrate radiation in a given direction.

But it will not double the distance that's for sure.

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