

# FCR Tech Tips



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## Fix Your Weak WiFi Signal

Many home internet users these days have wireless access points. These devices have only a certain coverage area and there are many factors in a home that can weaken the wireless signal such as walls and multiple floors. There are easy ways to ensure that you can extend your wireless signal throughout your home.

If you are interested in starting fresh with the purchase of a new wireless router, then make sure you choose 802.11n vs. 802.11g because "n" is the newest wireless standard and has the widest coverage area. This alone solved my coverage issues over my old 802.11g Linksys wireless router.

Another option may be to simply replace the removable antenna from your router with a bigger, longer range antenna-which is simple and does not require any software.

The third option is to add a repeater (or bridge) to your existing wireless router. A repeater is a little more complex and requires a little bit of networking know-how. A repeater is basically another wireless router that is placed somewhere closer to where you would like a stronger signal. It receives the existing weak signal from the existing router, amplifies it and then spits it out.

Below are some examples of wireless coverage extending products:

[Netgear Wireless-N Router](#)

[Hawking Hi Gain Directional Antenna](#)

[Netgear Wireless-N Access Point/Repeater](#)



## Is Your Password Strong Enough?

We all know that it is important to have secure passwords but what exactly is "secure". How complicated do passwords actually have to be? There are a few tricks that make it easier to come up with passwords that make the grade.

One handy trick is to make up a password that you can easily remember; then as you place your hands on the keyboard to type, move both of your hands to the right one key. You should always create a password that has both letters and numbers but for this example we'll say that you chose the word "dog". As you start typing with your hands one key off center, the word "dog" now becomes "fph" which is a lot more difficult to figure out.



There are a couple of websites that can test passwords and evaluate how strong they really are. The first site is [www.testyourpassword.com](http://www.testyourpassword.com). This site has you first create a password then checks its strength by showing you how much time it would take to crack your password. It also gives you many tips on how to come up with a strong password.

The second website is [www.passwordmeter.com](http://www.passwordmeter.com). The creators of this site consider this method to be more reliable for real-world scenarios. They score your password on variables such as number of characters, uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols that are in your password.

Visit the websites below and check your password strength today.

<http://www.testyourpassword.com/>

<http://www.passwordmeter.com/>

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