

TECH | PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY: JOANNA STERN

# 5G Smartphones Could Crush Your Home Wi-Fi. So Where's the 5G?

New 5G smartphones from AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon can provide speeds 10 times faster than your home Wi-Fi, but that depends on a number of conditions



By

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“You know, this internet connection is just too fast. Please slow it down. Maybe just as my boss asks me something important in a video call,” said...no one in 2020.

With so many people dragging along with subpar broadband, you'd think there would be more buzz around the arrival of the blazing fast 5G mobile networks and their accompanying smartphones. They're like the Incredibles, here to save us from careening off the broadband cliff, right? Except...well, a lot of excepts.

First, let's clear up a few things. This isn't the 5G setting on your home Wi-Fi router (that's 5 GHz), nor the 5GE that you might see on an AT&T smartphone (that's just better 4G).

This 5G is the fifth generation of cellular networks, designed to replace 4G, aka LTE. AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile have all been building out their networks here in the U.S. You may have heard how it will unlock the future of self-driving cars, augmented reality and lots of other buzzword-bingo tech terms.

Most of that isn't quite ready, but what is? A bunch of new 5G phones, including

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