

## SETTING UP A PERSONAL HOTSPOT OR MOBILE HOTSPOT

If you're using an iPad 2 Wi-Fi Only model, your ability to access the Web is limited exclusively to when you're within range of a Wi-Fi hotspot. If you also use a smartphone, you might have the ability to upgrade your wireless service plan and be able to use your smartphone device (such as an iPhone 4 or BlackBerry) to create a Personal Wi-Fi hotspot that your iPad 2 can tap into.

A Personal Wi-Fi Hotspot works just like any other Wi-Fi connection from your tablet's standpoint; however, it uses a smartphone, for example, to connect to a 3G or 4G wireless network. This can provide your smartphone, iPad 2, and other Wi-Fi-compatible devices with access to the Web from wherever a 3G or 4G wireless data connection is available through your smartphone's wireless data service provider.

In addition to using your smartphone to create a Personal Wi-Fi Hotspot, many of the wireless data service providers, including AT&T Wireless, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile, offer standalone Mobile Hotspot devices.

These devices are small and battery powered, and they enable you to wirelessly connect multiple Wi-Fi-compatible devices to the Internet via a 3G or 4G wireless data connection from wherever a compatible signal is available.

To utilize a Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot, you need to purchase the appropriate hardware (priced between \$50.00 USD and \$300.00 USD) and then sign up for and activate an account with a wireless data service provider, which costs anywhere from \$40.00 USD to \$80.00 USD per month.

The drawback to the Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot type of 3G or 4G Internet connectivity solution is that you typically need to sign a long-term contract with the wireless data service provider (up to two years), as if you're activating a new smartphone. Along with your iPad 2, you also need to carry around the Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot device and keep its battery charged. Plus, you are limited to the monthly data allocation offered by your service plan.

The benefit is that if you purchase a Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot device that's capable of providing a 4G web connection, you experience a true high-speed Internet surfing experience from your iPad 2 from almost anywhere. (A 4G wireless data connection is up to 10 times faster than a 3G wireless data connection.)

**NOTE** In the near future, most likely with the introduction of the iPad 3, the tablet itself will be able to connect to a 4G wireless data connection through AT&T Wireless, Verizon, or both.

However, for current iPad 2 Wi-Fi Only models, using a smartphone to create a personal Wi-Fi hotspot or using a separate Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot device is your best option for being able to access the Web in places where a traditional Wi-Fi hotspot is not available.