

# New Wi-Fi technology to let gadgets talk directly

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(AP) -- Starting in mid-2010, new versions of gadgets like cameras, cell phones and computers will be able to talk to each other using Wi-Fi without needing to connect to a wireless network first.

The Wi-Fi Alliance, an industry group, said Wednesday it is nearly finished putting together a Wi-Fi Direct specification, a set of technical "rules" that guide [consumer electronics](#) companies that plan to add the new capability.

Kelly Davis-Felner, the Wi-Fi Alliance's marketing director, said Wi-Fi Direct will make it easier to liberate the mounting gigabytes of digital family photos that are trapped in cameras, [smart phones](#) or PCs. Now those gadgets will be able to connect directly to digital photo frames, TVs or printers.

In creating the specification, the Alliance is moving into the territory of Bluetooth, a competing wireless technology that already handles direct gadget-to-gadget connections. Bluetooth uses less power but has much shorter range and a lower transfer speed. To tackle the latter problem, the industry group behind Bluetooth announced last year that it would co-opt Wi-Fi technology to make it possible to send videos and other bandwidth-hogging files around the house, much as Wi-Fi Direct promises to do.

Only one of the [gadgets](#) need have the new Wi-Fi Direct technology to make a two-way connection work. In one scenario, you could connect a

smart phone with Wi-Fi Direct to a laptop and piggyback on its wired [Internet connection](#) for a quick [e-mail](#) check without tapping your phone's data plan.

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