

## Cisco: Wifi Traffic To Exceed Wired by 2018

Written by Marco Attard  
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According to the Cisco Visual Networking Index report wifi traffic is to exceed wired traffic by 2018 as global IP traffic across fixed and mobile connections grows nearly 3-fold over the 2013-2018 forecast period.



Spurring such growth are growing internet user and device numbers, faster broadband speeds and increased video viewing-- for instance Cisco predicts the FIFA World Cup alone will generate 4.3 exabytes of IP traffic, 3 times the monthly IP traffic generated by host city Brazil.

Following that Cisco expects global IP traffic to reach 132 exabytes per month by 2018, the equivalent of 8.8 billion simultaneous 4K/UHD World Cup final streams.

Non-PC devices are a main IP traffic driver-- 33% of 2013 IP traffic came from non-PC devices, a share forecast to grow to 57% by 2018 through TVs, tablets, smartphones and M2M connections.

Cisco estimates global network connections will total 21 billion in 2018 (up from 12.4bn in 2013), with 2.7 connections/networked devices per capita, nearly 7.3bn M2M connections and 10bn IPv6-capable fixed and mobile devices.

Meanwhile IP video is forecast to make 79% of all IP traffic by 2018 (up from 66% in 2013), with 4K/UHD video accounting for 11% of 2018 video traffic, HD making 52% and SD accounting for the remaining 37%.

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Such video of course demands speed-- Cisco predicts global broadband speeds will reach 42Mbps by 2018, up from 16Mbps for 2013, with 55% of connections being faster than 10Mbps by 2018.

What are the implications for such internet growth? Service providers will need to adapt for the increase in devices, as well as provide the bandwidth for advanced video services. 4G growth and adoption might also grow faster, while IP networks will need to be intelligent and fast enough to support the constant introduction of new or updated applications.

Go [Cisco Visual Networking Index Global Forecast for 2013-2018](#)