

Written by Marco Attard
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Netgear announces a pair of 802.11ax AX6000 routers-- the 8-stream Nighthawk RAX80 and the 12-stream RAX120, both using the 2.4 and 5GHz bands and support for OFDMA (orthogonal frequency-division multiple access) on the uplink and downlink.



The RAX80 is based on the Broadcom BCM49408 SoC. It features two 802.11ax radios together with a 1.8GHz quad-core ARMv8 processor and an 800MHz network packet co-processor. The radios are in a 4x4:4 configuration, with one handling 2.4GHz duties (bgn+ax, with 40 MHz channels for 1150 Mbps of theoretical throughput), and the other the 5GHz channel (an+ac+ax, with 160 MHz channel support for 4800 Mbps of theoretical throughput).

Meanwhile the RAX120 AX6000 is based on the Qualcomm IPQ8078 SoC, with a quad-core Cortex A53 cluster running at 2.2GHz. It features two 802.11ax radios, the QCN5154 (an+ac+ax) and the QCN5124 (bgn+ax) for the 5 GHz and 2.4 GHz channels, set at 8x8:8 and 4x4:4 configuration respectively. The SoC also includes an integrated NBASE-T MAC, enabling a 5Gbps ethernet port.

Customers with internet speeds higher than 1Gbps can also aggregate two local ethernet ports to support such speeds, with DOCSIS 3.1 support allowing it to handle multi-gigabit internet speeds. The striking design of the routers serves a purpose, since the uplifted "wings" hide the antennas while holding them at an optimal position. One can also wall-mount the routers, and the units are optimised for both indoor and outdoor coverage.

The RAX80 is available now, with the RAX120 to follow on Q1 2019.

Netgear Intros Nighthawk 802.11ax AX6000 Routers

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