

ASUS DSL-AC56U Dual-Band Gigabit WiFi DSL/VDSL Router

Silky smooth streaming is made possible over the air by this excellent AC-class router that also has other tricks up its sleeve.



Streaming games over a home wireless network has long been the dream for gamers with multiple devices dotted around their homes, but the actual streaming performance delivered by routers that run older wireless tech has been somewhat lacking.

For instance, some of us at the htxt.africa offices have struggled to get our Xbox Ones to stream to our Windows 10 PCs over WiFi using 2.4GHz N-class routers. While it works, it's just not a wonderful experience – there's often a lot of compression and games appear to perform terribly. With this router, however, we were able to stream from an Xbox One to a laptop in another room at the highest quality setting, with no problem at all.

There was literally a 1:1 reproduction of what was happening on the Xbox One on our test laptop screen; we'll put this down to the superb bandwidth offered by AC-class WiFi, and the fact that the network card in the laptop in question (a Gigabyte P35W V5) is also AC-class.

Thanks to that AC radio and the fact that we moved around our test area while maintaining that excellent streaming performance from the wirelessly-connected Xbox One, we can quite confidently say the AC56U can blanket a large area with reliable WiFi signal. And that reliability is key – good

performance is one thing, but maintaining it wherever you are in your home (or business) relative to the router is just as important.

And as this is an ASUS router, you're also getting one of the easiest to use and most streamlined web interfaces on the market that lets you find what you need and make any desired changes quickly and easily. Setting up is a matter of going through the wizard that starts up when you access the router for the first time, entering the appropriate information and you're off.

ASUS has done a great job of delivering on the promise they display prominently on the box: this router is indeed fast, easy and stable. Plus, it's versatile and supports both ADSL and VDSL internet connections, and its WAN port even supports fibre in case you want to go that route at a later stage.

Unfortunately for anyone hoping this would all come at an affordable price, that's not the case. You're looking at just under three grand for this router, which is quite a large cost to swallow when less-capable yet not terrible routers can be picked up for three times less.

Ignoring the price and just looking at the tech alone, we were very happy with the DSL-AC56U. Its fast setup, really good interface and consistent performance sold us very quickly on it, and were it not for the price, we'd be only too happy to recommend it to gamers who want to stream their games over WiFi, and businesses looking for high-quality WiFi signal all over their premises.

Should your budget be okay with spending three grand on a router, this router will serve you incredibly well. If you're feeling the pinch, on the other hand, or you're not looking to stream games between Steam PCs or from an Xbox One to a Windows 10 machine, you might want to look elsewhere for your home or office networking needs. 🇳🇵

PRICE: R2 999

DETAILS

- **Concurrent Dual Band:** 867Mbps on 5GHz and 300Mbps on 2.4GHz
- **Two WAN ports** for DSL and Ethernet offer double the choice – wireless router or DSL modem
- **Compatible** with VDSL2, ADSL2/2+, ADSL, fibre and cable services for complete future-proofing
- **4 x Gigabit Ethernet ports** for fast and reliable internet performance
- **Dual multi-purpose USB ports** support file sharing, printer sharing, media streaming and 3G/4G support

SCORES

Looks: 8

8

Streaming Performance: 10

10

Ease of use: 8

8

Versatility: 10

10

Overall

9