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My actual Wi-Fi toolkit after two decades in the field.

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Ten years ago, I'd show up to a site with a rolling case full of gear. Spectrum analyzers. Dedicated survey laptops. Specialized adapters. Cables for days. It weighed a ton and cost a fortune.

Today? My toolkit fits in a backpack.

Here's what changed: The fundamentals of Wi-Fi troubleshooting haven't shifted. You still need to understand RF, channel utilization, interference, and client behavior. That knowledge is irreplaceable.

But the TOOLS? They've evolved dramatically.

My iPhone runs apps that would have cost thousands a decade ago. My MacBook Air handles packet captures and analysis without breaking a sweat. Lightweight, portable, always with me.

The expensive gear still has its place - don't get me wrong. There are situations where you absolutely need a dedicated spectrum analyzer or specialized hardware.

But for 80% of the troubleshooting I do? The phone in my pocket and the laptop in my bag handle it beautifully.

The real secret isn't the tools anyway. It's the experience behind them.

An experienced practitioner with an iPhone will outperform a novice with $50K worth of equipment every single time. The tools just help you see what your experience already tells you to look for.

If you're starting out in Wi-Fi - don't wait until you can afford the fancy gear. Start with what you have. Learn the fundamentals. One more time... KNOW THE FUNDAMENTALS. Practice in your home lab and hone your craft until you can trust your instincts.

The tools will follow.

What's in YOUR Wi-Fi toolkit these days?

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