

# Fon

share WiFi at home...  
...enjoy WiFi everywhere

## WHAT IS FON?

Fon was founded by Martin Varsavsky, with the goal of free, ubiquitous WiFi for everyone.

Today, Fon is the largest WiFi community in the world, with over three million Fon WiFi spots and over five million users.

The idea of Fon is that every person that have a WiFi connection in their home can become a hotspot for others to use. The members of Fon agree to share their WiFi at home and get free roaming at all the Fon spots worldwide in return.

Besides the free WiFi connection all over the world that the Fon community offers, it also offers ways to make profit with the hotspot; who is registered as a bill receives 50% of revenue for each alien member that decides to buy a pass and access to his hotspot. This is a good way to attract members and small business.

## USER REVIEW

The speed and performance of my home network was not affected. The only visitor on my hotspot indicated was me, so I decided to test the performance of the network having two laptops online in the home network and one in the fon; The bandwidth for both was the same 54mb, the speed and response from the web browsing was equal for both networks, so even if there is a significant amount of people connected in the hotspot the home network would not be affected.

In my way to Garajau I had my smartphone detecting WiFi signals and for my surprise I found 11 free fon hotspots between Caniço centro and Garajau (Figure 2). I attribute this to the difficulty that is to set the right localization for the hotspots or is also another possibility that the new Zon routers have the fon setting activated without people taking knowledge of this.

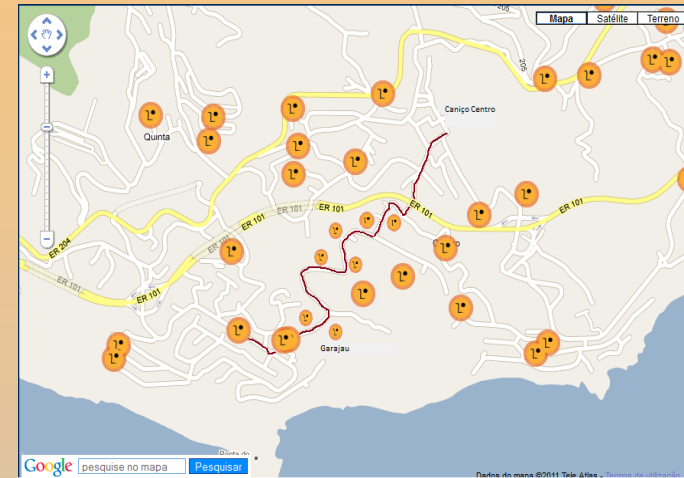


Figure 2 - rout with hotspots discovered

## CONCLUSION

Fon is the only initiative that based their idea in a community, so their growth only depends of people interest. If people wanted connectivity everywhere they can buy one of the fon routers call "fonera" or if they are lucky their telecommunication company had a partnership with fon and their router already allows to become a fon hotspot.

Fon provides access to the internet without almost any cost and if members choose to receive part of the profit made with his hotspot it can make a significant amount of money (it needs to be in consideration the localization of the hotspot); that's why their service also attract coffee shops, restaurants and private parks because is a win-win situation.

I can say that Fon is the only company that is really making internet connection ubiquitous. In the big cities we can found innumerous fon hotspots and even in Madeira a small island we now find a significant amount of fon spots.

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