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Granny Uses Super Wi-Fi to Watch YouTube Videos

By Nicholas Jackson

Leticia Aquirre is the country's first resident to participate in a trial for Wi-Fi transmitted over a new chunk of spectrum



Now that television has moved into the digital space, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decided to open up a chunk of spectrum between 50 MHz and 700 MHz for white space broadband Wi-

Fi; it was previously used to transmit analog TV programming.

Google, interested in the business possibilities that the white space could provide (Larry Page once called it [Wi-Fi on steroids](#)), is testing so-called Super Wi-Fi at a hospital in Ohio. But the Wi-Fi, which can travel for miles and pass through wall of brick because it's on a lower frequency than we're used to, had not been tested in a residential setting. Until now.

Rice University teamed up with a nonprofit in Houston to make Leticia Aquirre, a Houston grandmother, the country's first Super Wi-Fi user. "A working grandmother, [Aquirre] says she has mostly used the Internet in the past to check that her paychecks have been deposited," according to [Fast Company](#). "When it works, that is." Aquirre lives on the outskirts of a small area served by Houston's Technology for All. When the trees around her house started to fill out with leaves, Aquirre would frequently lose her already-weak signal completely.

Looking for a place to test the Super Wi-Fi, individuals working at Rice University noticed Aquirre's poor connection. They called and asked if they could install the necessary antenna. "She was super happy when we called up," Ryan Guerra, a Rice graduate student, told [Fast Company](#).

The antenna was installed about two weeks ago and, with an iPad 2 that the university gave her, Aquirre has been using her new Super Wi-Fi to watch videos on YouTube, check her email and stream music from Pandora while she's relaxing or exercising.

Image: Rice University.

This article available online at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/04/granny-uses-super-wi-fi-to-watch-youtube-videos/237640/>

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