

## *Getting Started on Athens OH Area MeshCore: Choosing your First Radio*

In the world of MeshCore radio networking, actual radios are divided into three separate "roles" or functions they perform:

- Companions (our focus here as your first radio)
- Repeaters
- Room Servers

Most MeshCore radios are capable of performing any of these roles, but different 'firmware' is required for each role. The roles cannot be changed without first changing the internal firmware. Certainly do-able but with a learning curve.

**For your first radio on the Athens Area MeshCore network, you want a radio configured to perform the "Companion" role.**

Beyond that, there are dozens of suitable radios available off-the-shelf at reasonable cost. Most of these require either a Bluetooth connection to a "Companion" cellphone (but not cell service), or a Bluetooth connection to a Bluetooth capable computer terminal.

You will also need the free [MeshCore Companion App](#), available for iOS, Android, Windows, Linux.

A few other things you might consider:

- Do you want a device with a small screen, or without?
- Do you want to use a companion cellphone, or a bluetooth computer terminal? (or both: Cell service is not required, only the phone)
- Would you rather have a 'stand-alone' device not requiring a cellphone?

Recommended Video References:

- [Recommended MeshCore Companion Devices](#) (11 minutes - YouTube)
- [MeshCore Companion Devices](#) (MeshCore International)

Questions are always welcome ! [mesh@w8kvk.com](mailto:mesh@w8kvk.com)

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