

Selecting a Module

Volume of solution – Usual breakpoint is between 10-100kQ, dependent on target device cost. Below that, stick with a module, and save certification costs.

Complexity of solution – Basic applications with relatively simple networking needs, are a good fit for modules. As bandwidth and communication requirements increase, start thinking about chipsets.

Software development environment – Time to market is often the overriding concern in delivering a solution. Modules can provide a simple solution, with easy examples, but can be limiting. Some chipset providers have comprehensive SDKs for easing development. If you have a lot to do, working with a module with a good API, or a good SDK can make or break your timeline.

Range – There are tradeoffs in modules in including an internal connector, or U.FL connector for external antenna – not all options are appropriate.