Home Wireless Network Setting by Microsoft

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4 steps to set up your home wireless network

You can use a wireless network to surf the web while you're sitting on your couch or in your yard. Plus, it's easier to install than you think.

Note: The following instructions apply to all editions of Windows 7.
   a. **For Windows Vista users, we recommend installing Windows Vista Service Pack 2 before setting up your wireless network.**
   b. **For Windows XP users, we recommend installing Windows XP Service Pack 3.**
 Although the service pack is not required for wireless networking, it does make things much easier and helps protect you against hackers, worms, and other Internet intruders.

Looking to share files, printers, and more? Learn how to set up a home network.

1. Choose your wireless equipment
The first step is to make sure that you have the equipment you need. As you're looking for products in stores or on the Internet, you might notice that you can choose equipment that supports three different wireless networking technologies: 802.11a, 802.11b, and 802.11g. We recommend 802.11g, because it offers excellent performance and is compatible with almost everything.

Shopping list

   a. **Broadband Internet connection (Such as, Embarq, Comcast, Road Runner,etc)**
   b. **A computer with built-in wireless networking support or a wireless network adapter**
   c. **A wireless router**

The router converts the signals coming across your Internet connection into a wireless broadcast, sort of like a cordless phone base station. Be sure to get a wireless router, and not a wireless access point.

   d. **A wireless network adapter if your computer does not have built-in wireless card**

Network adapters wirelessly connect your computer to your wireless router. If you have a newer computer you may already have wireless capabilities built in. If this is the case, then you will not need a wireless network adapter. If you need to purchase an adapter for a desktop computer, buy a USB wireless network adapter. If you have a laptop, buy a PC card-based network adapter. Make sure that you have one adapter for every computer on your network. (Most late model laptops come with built-in wireless card, so you wouldn't need the adapter)

Note: To make setup easy, choose a network adapter made by the same vendor that made your wireless router. For example, if you find a good price on a Linksys router, choose a Linksys network adapter to go with it. To make shopping even easier, buy a bundle, such as those available from D-Link, Netgear, Linksys, Microsoft, and Buffalo. If you have a desktop computer, make sure that you have an available USB port to plug the wireless network adapter into. If you don't have any open USB ports, buy a hub to add additional ports.

2. Connect your wireless router

Since you'll be temporarily disconnected from the Internet, print these instructions before you go any further.

A.   Locate your cable modem or DSL modem and unplug it to turn it off.(Some modems have an on/off switch)

B.   Connect your wireless router to your modem. Your modem should stay connected directly to the Internet. Later, after you've hooked everything up, your computer will wirelessly connect to your router, and the router will send communications through your modem to the Internet.

C.   Connect your router to your modem:

Note: The instructions below apply to a Linksys wireless router. The ports on your router may be labeled differently, and the images may look different on your router. Check the documentation that came with your equipment for additional assistance.

If you currently have your computer connected directly to your modem: Unplug the network cable from the back of your computer, and plug it into the port labeled Internet, WAN, or WLAN on the back of your router.

If you do not currently have a computer connected to the Internet: Plug one end of a network cable (included with your router) into your modem, and plug the other end of the network cable into the Internet, WAN, or WLAN port on your wireless router.

If you currently have your computer connected to a router: Unplug the network cable connected to the Internet, WAN, or WLAN port from your current router, and plug this end of the cable into the Internet, WAN, or WLAN port on your wireless router. Then, unplug any other network cables, and plug them into the available ports on your wireless router. You no longer need your original router, because your new wireless router replaces it.

D. Plug in and turn on your cable or DSL modem. Wait a few minutes to give it time to connect to the Internet, and then plug in and turn on your wireless router. After a minute, the Internet, WAN, or WLAN light on your wireless router should light up, indicating that it has successfully connected to your modem.

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3. Configure your wireless router

Using the network cable that came with your wireless router, you should temporarily connect your computer to one of the open network ports on your wireless router (any port that isn't labeled Internet, WAN, or WLAN). If you need to, turn your computer on. It should automatically connect to your router.

Next, open Internet Explorer and type in the address to configure your router.

You might be prompted for a password. The address and password you use will vary depending on what type of router you have, so refer to the instructions included with your router.

As a quick reference, this table shows the default addresses, usernames, and passwords for some common router manufacturers.

Router Address
 Username
 Password

3Com
 http://192.168.1.1
 admin
 admin

D-Link
 http://192.168.0.1
 admin

Linksys
 http://192.168.1.1
 admin
 admin

Microsoft Broadband
 http://192.168.2.1
 admin
 admin

Netgear
 http://192.168.0.1
 admin
 password

Internet Explorer will show your router's configuration page. Most of the default settings should be fine, but you should configure three things:

   a. **Your wireless network name, known as the SSID. This name identifies your network. You should choose something unique that none of your neighbors will be using.**

   b. **Wireless encryption (WEP) or Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA), which help protect your wireless network. For most routers, you will provide a passphrase that your router uses to generate several keys. Make sure your passphrase is unique and long (you don't need to memorize it).**

   c. **Your administrative password, which controls your wireless network. Just like any other password, it should not be a word that you can find in the dictionary, and it should be a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols. Be sure you can remember this password, because you'll need it if you ever have to change your router's settings.**

The exact steps you follow to configure these settings will vary depending on the type of router you have. After each configuration setting, be sure to <u>click Save Settings, Apply, or OK to save your changes.</u>

Now, you should disconnect the network cable from your computer.

4. Connect your computers to the wireless network

Windows 7
Windows Vista
Windows XP

If your computer does not have wireless network support built in, plug your network adapter into your USB port, and place the antenna on top of your computer (in the case of a desktop computer), or insert the network adapter into an empty PC card slot (in the case of a laptop). Windows will automatically detect the new adapter, and may prompt you to insert the CD that came with your adapter. The on-screen instructions will guide you through the configuration process.

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