

Tech News:
802.11n is Finally Here



As the Wi-Fi Alliance announced its eye-catching new logo for Wi-Fi CERTIFIED™ 802.11n draft 2.0 on 16 May, 2007, it stated that it will begin certifying Wi-Fi products that use 802.11n draft 2.0, the next generation of high-speed wireless networking technology, from June 2007. 802.11n will offer up to five times the throughput and up to twice the range of existing Wi-Fi technology.

The industry group, which has certified products for all of the preceding 802.11 Wi-Fi standards, including 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g, said last August that it would take a two-phase approach to the 802.11n certification process. Once 802.11n becomes a full standard, the alliance will update its certification process to comply with the standard. The group said that Wi-Fi certification will ease the purchase process by delivering 802.11n draft 2.0 products that have been tested for industry-wide interoperability, the very latest security protection, and backward compatibility with previous generations of Wi-Fi gear.

The 802.11n standard, which has been batted around for more than two years, was supposed to be finalized by early 2007. But the process has been delayed, and a final standard is unlikely to be completed until 2008 at the earliest. Meanwhile, many companies have already begun selling pre-standard 802.11n products.

When Intel recently introduced the Santa Rosa platform (4th generation Centrino® platform), which incorporates the Intel PRO/Wireless 4965AGN IEEE 802.11 a/b/g/n mini-PCIe Wi-Fi adapter (code-named Kedron), Intel also announced its "Connect with Centrino" verification activities. It was not only demonstrating 802.11n wireless connection's extended capability and performance, but was also trying to build up consumer confidence in purchasing 802.11n draft 2.0 wireless network products.

PEAK will release 802.11n products around July or August 2007. The products will be certified by the Wi-Fi Alliance to the Wi-Fi CERTIFIED™ 802.11n draft 2.0 standard.



The Right Choice
www.peakhardware.com