

Tech News: How to Setup Your First Home Network



If you have more than one computer at home, chances are you've already set up a home computer network. With home networking, the entire family can share a single Internet connection. Printers and important documents can also be easily shared across the room. Setting up a network used to be a daunting task, with high prices and complex installation procedures. Not any more. The price for networking equipment has dropped considerably and the entire installation process can be finished within 10 minutes.

To set up your first home network, follow the steps below:

• Step 1. Planning

Spend a little time and think about your network. The most popular method would be wireless technology. With inexpensive equipment and easy installation, most home user would use one of the 802.11 a/b/g/n standards. We'll use wireless network technology in this article to explain the procedure. We'll also assume you've already set up a broadband connection from your local ISP (Internet Service Provider).

• Step 2. Purchasing

You'll need the following:

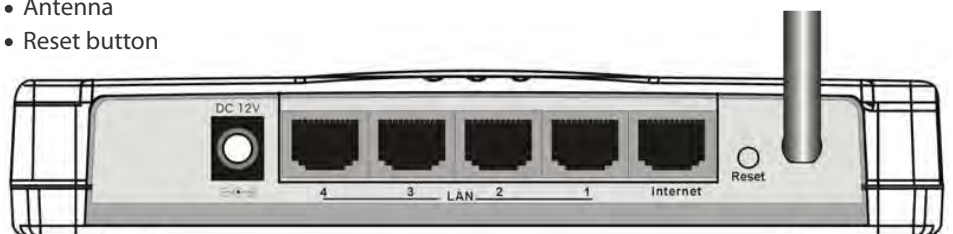
- Router. The central controlling hub for your network
- Wireless adaptors for all devices that will be connected to your network. (Modern notebook PCs already have a built-in wireless adaptor)
- 20~30 minutes of your time.

The router and wireless adaptors can be easily purchased from most major electronic stores. To future-proof your investment, it is recommended to go for 802.11 Draft n products. Both router and wireless adaptor need to be 802.11 Draft n certified products for you to take advantage of the improved speed and coverage of the Draft n standard.

• Step 3. Installation

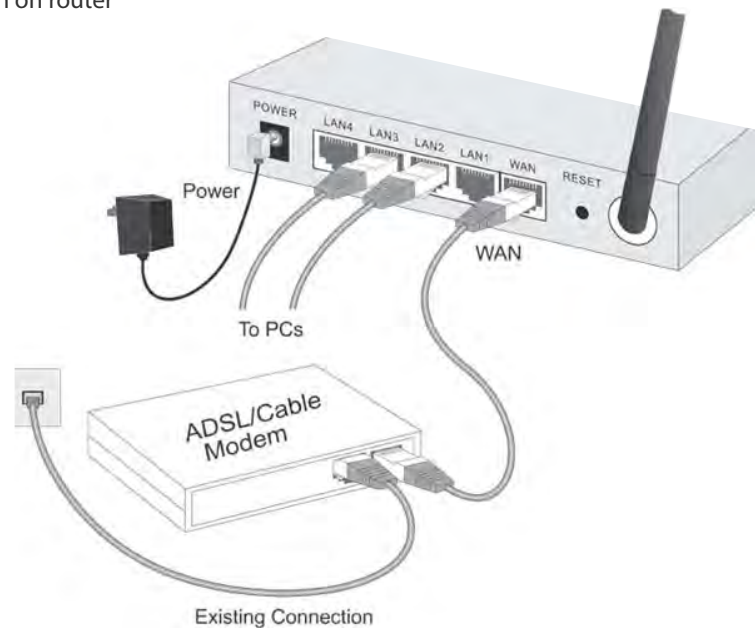
On the back of your router, you should see the following ports:

- WAN (or Internet) port
- LAN (or local) ports. You should have a minimum of 4 LAN ports
- Power connector
- Antenna
- Reset button



Connect the cables as follow:

- Connect the ADSL or Cable modem to the WAN port on the wireless router.
- Connect one of your local computers to the LAN port on the wireless router. (you'll need to use a wired Ethernet connection for the initial setup)
- Switch on router



• Step4. Configuration

Your router should come pre-loaded with software that will enable you to change network configurations. To access the router's configuration page, usually you'll need to type in a certain IP address in your web browser (this can either be IE or Firefox). The most popular IP address for initial router setup is 192.168.1.1. Please consult the user manual for additional information.

Next you'll need to run the network setup wizard. After gaining access to the configuration page, look for setup wizard and follow it complete the configuration process. Please have your account settings from your broadband service (username and password) ready as you'll need them during the configuration process.

Remember to enable network security on the wireless router (WPA is best) so that only your own PCs can access your wireless network. The network password needs to be entered only once on each of your PCs.

• Step5. Finishing up

- Disconnect your computer from the router by unplugging the Ethernet cable. You'll see a warning message at the bottom right hand corner of the screen that a network cable is disconnected. Ignore the message.
- Install the wireless network adaptor on the computer if it's not a wireless notebook PC.
- Reboot your computer. Shortly after the computer boots up, you'll see a message "Wireless Network detected" appearing. Click on the message and select your wireless network.

You're done! You can now enjoy your wireless network. Feel free to share your music / movie files across the room with ease. There are countless wireless multimedia devices that you can incorporate into your wireless network. PEAK HARDWARE has numerous Networking products available. For more information, please visit us at www.peakhardware.com



The Right Choice

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