

Re: Connecting an extra computer to Internet

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2007-07/msg00897.html>

- *From:* Rick Stevens <rstevens@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 05 Jul 2007 09:54:30 -0700
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On Thu, 2007-07-05 at 17:07 +0100, Paul Smith wrote:

On 7/5/07, Sultan Saini <javagrendel@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I have a cable-based (not optic) modem/router to connect to the Internet (ADSL), which works fine. However, a friend comes in from time to time, bringing her laptop. Is there some cheap and easy way of letting her laptop to connect to Internet? Unfortunately, I cannot see any place in the modem/router to connect an extra cable...

Do you have a router installed, or are you connecting your computer directly to the DSL modem? The two are usually separate devices, with the router sitting between the modem and the computer. Routers generally have at least 4 network jacks. The one I use at home is a wireless router as well, which is much more convenient for laptops.

Thanks, Sultan Saini. I am connecting my computer directly to the DLS modem (provided by my ISP). I think my DLS model is also a router, as its configuration is done through a web interface.

Your modem contains a router. ADSL needs that. The question is, how does your computer plug into the modem? If it uses an RJ45 connector (a cable that looks like the cord you use to plug your phone into the wall—but with 8 pins rather than 4), then the easiest way to do it is:

ADSL line <--> existing modem <--> switch <--> computer
<--> 2nd computer
<--> 3rd computer

The "switch" is an item you can buy for \$20 US at most stores. Many companies actually make an ADSL modem/router/switch/WAN access point

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combo box.

For example, D-Link's DSL-2640B is an ADSL modem, router/firewall, 4-port gigabit switch and 802.11g wireless access point. The URL is <http://www.dlink.com/products/?sec=1&pid=567>. Other companies (Airlink, Cisco, etc.) make similar beasts.

One of these should be enough for you to do full-up networking at home. If you're unfamiliar with wireless networking, make sure you set the ESSID and WEP key or WPA passphrases to something other than the default so other wireless users can't hijack your bandwidth. I even go so far as to not have the wireless stuff broadcast the ESSID. If you don't know my ESSID, you can't find it. Just because I'm paranoid doesn't mean they aren't out to get me!

– Rick Stevens, Principal Engineer rstevens@xxxxxxxxxxxx –
– VitalStream, Inc. <http://www.vitalstream.com> –
– –
– A day for firm decisions!!! Well, then again, maybe not! –

– –
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