

Re: setting up WPA Personal (F9 & KDE 4.1 (from updates-testing))

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2008-08/msg01022.html>

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Tim:

I wonder a couple of things: Whether the original poster has tried both right clicking and left clicking on the network manager icon. And whether they're trying to use access points that aren't broadcasting their SSID (which is a complete waste of time).

Beartooth:

I have to be missing something here. Why do the wireless settings on my router allow me a separate choice whether to broadcast SSID, if one that isn't doing it is useless??

As a (false) security idea, not broadcasting it is a useless thing to do. It actually causes more problems: How do manual and automated systems connect to the right access point, when they don't name themselves? (It's doable, but abnormally.) More so when presented with several unidentified access points, and you're only supposed to use a particular one of them. You might keep trying to use the wrong one(s), you might actually keep on using the wrong ones (on unencrypted systems). The list goes on and on with things that's wrong with hiding SSIDs. There is no benefit in doing so.

As to **why** a device gives you an option to hide the SSID, good question. I can't think of any good reason to give you the option, considering that it only causes harm, not good. It's probably offered to appease stupidity amongst the cargo cult breed of users.

A much more useful thing would be for the manufacturers to either make sure that devices all had a unique ID, by default (e.g. something matching a sticker on the device), which would still allow network admins which want to have multiple devices with the same ID (for special purposes), by manual reconfiguration, but keep SSIDs unique for everyone else (which