

Discussion of BCM43xx wireless mini-pc card on an HP Pavillion dv9012 series Laptop with Gutsy

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If this is addressed to the wrong Forum, please feel free to forward same to any other Forum wherein it might be helpful. This commentary is intended to be of help to others who may be facing similar Wireless problems. I make no claim for originality.

My HP Pavilion dv9012 series laptop with internal BCM94311MCG wlan mini-PCI card has worked flawlessly with VISTA, SuSE SLED10, Dapper, and Fiesty. When I upgraded to Gutsy, downloaded the Restricted Firmware, and went on-line it worked immediately but Download speeds ran from 20kbs to ~ 60kbs. This, with a DSL broadband line rated and tested for 7Mbs. I communicated with others via this and other Forums, and also did many Google searches attempting to resolve this problem, but to no avail. Finally, I was able to locate the cause and corrective action necessary to restore full 7mbs speeds by means of a systematic debug process which worked, and is 100% repeatable. My apologies in advance to the BCM43xx development group who were both helpful, and had the patience to stick with me, as the problem had nothing to do with the Firmware.

To isolate the problem Vista was run on this dual-boot laptop, which also contains Gutsy. The BCM94311MCG wlan mini-PCI performance was identical to that of Gutsy. Conclusion: could be a defective BCM94311MCG wlan mini-PCI.

Next I used a Thinkpad Laptop (Dual-boot) running Xp and Fiesty. Results were identical, low-speed identical to that above, but with Totally different hardware; ie, it does not use a BCM94311MCG wlan mini-PCI card. Conclusion: The BCM94311MCG wlan mini-PCI card and the firmware for same is not the problem.

Next step was to disconnect my internal Linksys router from my internal Network, then connect directly to my DSL Modem via Ethernet cable to the HP Laptop. Result was full DSL 7Mbs speed. Conclusion: problem must be associated with the Linksys wireless "B" Broadband router. The Internal Network could not be the problem as it was previously checked for up to 100Mbs transfer rates.

The Linksys router was next tested by bypassing the wireless part and

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connected to the Laptop via Ethernet cable. Result: Full DSL 7Mbs performance. Back to square One!

To finally isolate where the Linksys problem was, everything was reconnected to it's initial state, rebooted and speed retested. It was unchanged at 20kbs to ~ 60kbs data rate. Using a wired connection to the Linksys router was still a full 7Mbs rate. Conclusion: The Linksys router in the wireless mode is clearly the problem.

Finally, the Linksys router was given a Full reset. The procedure to setup from scratch was followed to completion by re-entering all the necessary information as necessary for operation with the DSL modem. Result: Problem solved. Full wireless operation with my HP Pavilion dv9012 and the BCM94311MCG wlan mini-PCI, now produces the identical 7Mbs data rate as the DSL Modem itself.

How the Linksys Router lost it's mind is unknown, as it is on an active UPS system.

Sorry for the long-winded update, but systematic thought processes are a necessary attribute for a Physicist! After nearly two weeks of intermittent investigation I felt compelled to tell someone!

Thanks to all...

Harry

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