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Wireless Network Adapters

Many of the endpoints comes with a PCMCIA port where a wireless card can be plugged in to make the system interface with a few selected 802.11b wireless network cards.

The major drawback by using the PCMCIA interface to get a system onto a wireless network is that the choice of usable cards is very limited, this because of the inconvenience of having a wide specter of software drivers installed or available for installation.

It has been a challenge to get support for the newer wireless cards on the market because many of the chipset manufacturers for the cards do not make their development code available in a format we can use. Most offer Windows based development code and as many of you are aware, we do not run Windows on our products.

An easy work-around for this limitation is to use a wireless network adapter which makes the system believe it is connected by wire, as normal.

Recommended cards

- Compaq WL110 11 Mbps Wireless LAN
- Lucent Orinoco 11 Mbit/s SILVER
- Lucent Orinoco 11 Mbit/s GOLD
- Cisco Aironet 350 series (AIR-PCM 350 series)
- Enterasys Networks RoamAbout 802.11 DS High Rate
- Melco Buffalo WLI-PCM-L11G

Recommended access points

- Compaq WL410 base station
- ASUS WL-330g Pocket Wireless Access Point
- Macsense AeroPad Mini WUA-800 Network Adapter
- D-Link DWL-G810

Recommended Wireless Network Adapters

TANDBERG has tested some wireless network adapters.

A wireless network adapter is typically a small box connected to the endpoint (in this case) by a regular network cable, and powered either from a USB connector or from the net by an AC/DC-adapter.

An option is using an ASUS Pocket Wireless Access Point WL-330g, which has been tested by TANDBERG. This device will work as an Ethernet bridge by plugging the RJ45 from the codec into the device. You can then power it from the USB port of the TANDBERG codec or from a separate power brick.

ASUS WL-330g Pocket Wireless Access Point

- Dimensions: 3.3in x 2.45in x 0.67in
- Supports both 802.11b and 802.11g.

Models tested by TANDBERG includes

- Aeropad Mini WUA-800
- D-link DWL-G810

The adapters have basically exactly the same characteristics and functions. The main difference is the size. The D-Link adapter is about twice the size of the other two adapters which are more or less identical. The D-Link adapter also comes only with a net-adapter for power, whereas the other two have USB-adapters. The D-Link adapter provides better coverage.

Configuration

The adapter has to be configured from a PC to match the settings of the wireless network it is supposed to connect to.

The wireless network adapters can usually be set as either an adapter or as an access point.

The adapter is configured via a conventional html user interface from a PC.

The PC NIC has to be set to a static IP-address in accordance to the settings of the adapter.

Below you will find some typical settings for configuring a wireless network adapter (the ones marked with "*" are mandatory):

- AP Name: Unit Name
- SSID*: Name on wireless network
- Channel: Is provided automatically in adapter mode
- Wireless Mode: (is usually infrastructure)
- Authentication*: Type of encryption
- WEP Key*: WEP encryption On/Off for open systems
- Mode*: Type of key (hex/ASCII)
- Key(s)*: 1 - 4 keys