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Scope

This article gives step-by-step directions for configuring both a DSL modem and a DD-WRT-equipped router. This guide can be helpful when changing over to DSL from cable, or anytime DSL is to be used with a router.

Background

DSL modems typically come pre-configured in ways that are convenient for the Internet service provider (ISP), but not for the consumer. Attempts to use these modems with a router can result in headaches. It is best to place the modem in bridge mode and let the router handle the connection to the ISP's network.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Obtain network name and password from ISP

- ◆ Network name is often the same as account name, but *network password* is nearly always different from *account password*.
- ◆ It is most easily noted when the account is first set up.
- ◆ It is not generally retrievable from the modem's web interface.
- ◆ You 'own' this information. Don't let the service provider charge for it.
- ◆ This is a must-have. Can not proceed without it.

2. Wire directly from DSL modem to PC and test for good connection

- ◆ Disable any wireless network adapters.
- ◆ DSL service should be active at this time.
- ◆ If resurrecting an old modem, repairing a previous disaster, etc., hard reset the modem by holding down the Reset button until red/orange LED flashes. (Hard reset is otherwise not necessary.)
- ◆ Verify Internet connection by surfing to one or more websites. **NOTE:** This is an important step. Some ISPs will refuse to assist with connectivity issues with modem in bridge mode. Care should be taken to see that there is no problem with the DSL service itself before proceeding.
- ◆ If no web access, work with service provider to establish an Internet connection.

3. Access modem's GUI, set bridge mode

- ◆ Point browser to same address as used for initial setup. (AT&T modems use 192.168.1.254.)
- ◆ If unsure of modem's GUI address, check sticker on bottom of modem.
- ◆ The following example is for a typical AT&T modem, a Westell model E90-610030-06 (FW 03.08.02).
 - ◇ From 'home' screen, click 'Broadband DSL Line' and select 'Configure Connection'.
 - ◇ On the 'Protocol' line pick 'Bridge Ethernet' (screen should change to show the line:

DSL_with_DD-WRT

'Bridge Type: Bridge'), then 'Save and Restart Connection'.

- ◆ That's all. Note modem's GUI is no longer accessible, but there is no further need for it. To regain GUI access for any reason (which removes the bridge mode just set), simply hold down Reset button until red/orange LED flashes. Default settings will be restored.

4. Cleanup and prepare router for DSL connection

- ◆ Unplug modem's power cord, then Ethernet cable.
- ◆ Connect the loose Ethernet cable end (from PC) to any of the LAN ports on the router (not the WAN port) and browse to GUI, usually at 192.168.1.1.
- ◆ On **Setup** tab, on Basic Setup page, change Connection Type to PPPoE and key in User Name and Password ('network password' from step 1.), and 'Save'.
- ◆ Power down router.

5. Wire for normal operation and Go!

- ◆ Connect modem to router's WAN port by Ethernet cable
- ◆ Plug in modem and allow to sync (DSL light stops blinking)
- ◆ Plug in router
- ◆ Done. Happy DSL!

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