



Keeping IT Simple

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### **We want your feedback**

Let us know if you have any questions in regards to Wireless, or if you would like to know more about a product, service or technology in an up and coming issue. [Click Here](#) to place your feedback

## Wireless Explained

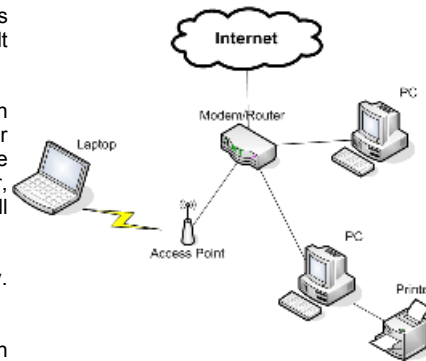
### Wireless Internet vs Wireless Networks

So many products are now coming out with features that include Wireless this or Wireless that. Most Laptops and PDAs now come with wireless built in. What this means, and what you can do with it can be a bit confusing.

Wireless capable device's (such as Laptops, PDAs, Gaming Consoles) can access the Internet, or other devices connected to the same network. For example instead of running cables around the office or through your home so that all the Computers can access the internet/email/messenger, installing a Wireless Modem/Router or Access Point can do away with all the mess and eyesore of cables.

There are typically two ways of accessing the internet/email Wirelessly. One is at Home or Office, and the other is while you are out and about.

The first is the scenario described above, that's while you are at home or in the office. You will need to have a Wireless enabled Modem/Router or alternatively a separate Access Point. Once these are turned on and configured (they typically have a Step-by-Step wizard to walk you through the configuration) you will be able to connect to your ADSL/Cable internet connection just like you would by running a network cable to the device.



The second way is connecting while you are out and about. Here are a couple of options to look at. Please remember these are completely separate and do not tie into your Home/Office Internet connection.

Firstly is connecting to one of the many Wireless "Hot-Stops" around town. Some libraries, cafes and airports offer Wireless access, and the list is growing. There are sites such as [www.Wi-fizone.com](http://www.Wi-fizone.com), which provide lists of publicly-accessible hotspots. There is usually a charge to use these public Hotspots.

The Second is connecting via a Cellular network. Both Vodafone and Telecom offer modems that can be plugged into your Laptop to provide Internet access anywhere you get a cellphone signal. This can be a very handy solution if you are travelling around a lot. Some cellphones and PDAs have this capability built in, so if you are travelling a lot and need constant and regular access to things like email, this maybe an option to consider.

### **Questions to ask yourself:**

- Do you have network cable running all over your home/office? Is it a hazard?
- Would having the ability to move PC's or Laptops from room to room without having to rerun cables be of benefit?
- How often do you have people coming into your place and wanting/needing to access the Internet, Email or files?
- Would having the ability to get to files/Emails while you are off site in a meeting be of use?
- Does being able to sit out on your deck, in the garden or laze about in bed and still be able to look like you are online, sound attractive?

**If you answered yes to any of these questions, then a Wireless solution maybe an option for you.**

### **Points to consider:**

- Environment can seriously effect Wireless speeds eg: reflective surfaces, concrete walls/floors
- If a Wireless connection is left unsecured people can tap into it and use your internet connection
- There is no guaranteed speed or range of a Wireless connection
- Hotspots are usually a "pay as you go" scenario
- Connecting to the Internet "on the go" requires a separate modem

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