Edimax BR-6475nD 300Mbps Dual-band Gigabit Router

THE 5GHZ WHIZ KID.

TEXT // ANDY SIM

AT A GLANCE

WIRELESS STANDARD
802.11b/g/n

ANTENNAS
Two detachable 3dBi antennas

OPERATING FREQUENCY
2.4GHz and 5GHz

ETHERNET PORTS
4x Gigabit LAN, 1x Gigabit WAn

PRICE
$155

There's a dedicated Wi-Fi switch and a WPS button which doubles up as a Reset button.

We're seeing more and more 802.11n routers pop up lately, thanks in part to the growing number of users migrating to fiber broadband networks here in Singapore. One of them is the Edimax BR-6475nD, a 2T2R simultaneous dual-band router that comes loaded with features such as port forwarding, DDNS and WDS (to unite multiple wireless access points).

The 6475 is garbed in a simple white shell with a black front panel. Apart from usual LAN and WAN indicators, Edimax has implemented a few extras, including separate status lights for the 2.4GHz and 5GHz wireless bands. Behind the router sits two detachable 3dBi antennas, plus a Gigabit WAN and 4-port Gigabit LAN hub. A Wi-Fi switch is nice to have, although a USB port is clearly absent. We understand from Edimax that the decision to omit the port and print-server features was a deliberate one, due to compatibility issues with the diverse range of printers out there.

Moving on to the router's setup and features, if you intend to use the web interface, note that the default ID and password are "admin" and "1234" respectively. Edimax's unsophisticated red and grey layout actually belies some of the advanced features this router hides. For example, tucked under the NAT tab is a variety of network tweaks such as virtual server (provides external access to internal web or FTP services), trigger ports and UPnP features.

Evidently, traffic prioritization is also high on Edimax's list with two iQoS and QoS features. In fact, iQoS does remind us of the ASUS EzQoS bandwidth management application, given their similar user-friendly arrangements. In Edimax's case, users can simply click on relevant icons (like multimedia, P2P, gaming, etc) for priority over other applications. For savvy users, we'd recommend the QoS alternative where you get to assign specific programs instead.

Throughput performance on the 2.4GHz band was commendable, but became rather unstable at longer ranges. At 2 meters, downstream and upstream speeds were satisfactory at 73.622Mbps and 73.151Mbps. Oddly enough, while downlink speeds plunged to 5.351Mbps at 25 meters, its uplink throughput managed to sustain itself at an acceptable 42.052Mbps.

The router's performance was more encouraging on the 5GHz band with emphasis on its uplink strengths. At the 2 meter range, the router delivered downlink and uplink throughputs at 61.843Mbps and 123.664Mbps respectively. With WPA2 encryption enabled, downstream figures were further bumped up to 82.144Mbps. And even at 25 meters, the Taiwanese router managed to keep its stride at 51.844Mbps and 59.868Mbps respectively.

Compared to the ASUS RT-N56U, Edimax's 2.4GHz performance is comparable but it was still a shade behind the ASUS router on the 5GHz spectrum. In any case, this is irrefutably one of the better performing dual-band routers we've seen from Edimax yet.

SPECIFICATIONS **STANDARDS** IEEE 802.11 b/g/n // **MEMORY** 64MB // **WAN protocol** PPPoE, static IP, PPTP, dynamic IP, L2TP // **DATA RATE** Up to 300Mbps // **TRANSMISSION POWER 2.4GHZ** 11n: 17±1.5dBm, 11g: 17±1.5dBm, 11b: 18±1.5dBm // **Transmission Power 5GHz** 11n: 15±1.5dBm, 11a: 15±1.5dBm // **FIRMWARE** v1.09 // **PORTS** 4x Gigabit LAN, 1x Gigabit WAN // **DIMENSIONS** 134x110x26 mm // **WEBSITE** www.edimax.com

VERDICT SCORES ARE OUT OF 10.

Verdict:

8.0

SILVER HWM SINGAPORE

PHYSIQUE: 8.0
FEATURES: 8.0
USER-FRIENDLINESS: 8.0
PERFORMANCE: 8.5
VALUE: 8.0