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MAGAZINE

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MIDDLE & NEAR EAST

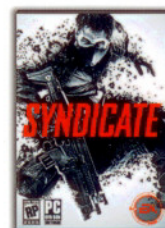
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Check out our report on Page 10 regarding the PC Magazine 20 Days Campaign with Samsung Galaxy Note.

Awesome Games Section!

Disney Adventures
Forsia Motorsport 4
Star Wars - Old Republic
Syndicate



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LET TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR YOU!

Technology can make life easier and this is the reason why you should make it work for you. Inside, we show you

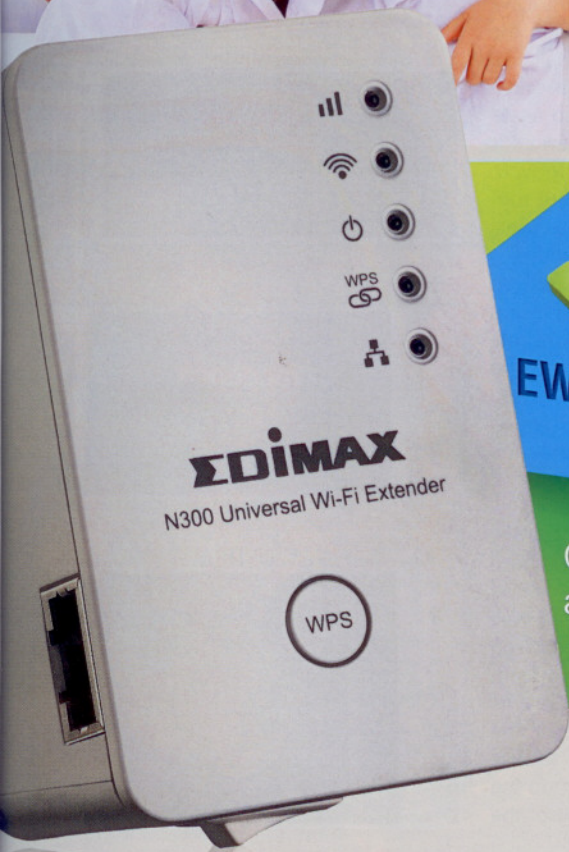


Buying the Best Tablet and Laptop
Awesome Wireless Routers
Getting Desktops for Business
How to Create a Backup Plan
Loading Up On the Best Smartphone Apps



Double the Coverage of
your Wi-Fi with Ease.

EDIMAX
NETWORKING PEOPLE TOGETHER



Compact and Convenient Wi-Fi Extender
and Power Adapter

just **PLUG & EXTEND**



Just Plug
it in
any electrical outlet.



In Your Browser, type the
URL shown at the barcode:
printed on the rear side of the product.



Enjoy Extended
Wi-Fi in Seconds.
iQ Setup guides the entire process.

The Edimax EW-7438RPn N300 Universal Wi-Fi Extender can easily double the signal coverage of your Wi-Fi network for better Wi-Fi quality in homes with many rooms or multiple floors. With both a Wi-Fi extender and a power adapter in a compact design, the EW-7438RPn can be plugged directly into an electrical outlet for convenient placement. The smart iQ Setup feature and the signal strength LED make it easy for you to set it up where your Wi-Fi signal needs enhancement.



Toll Free Technical Support
800-EDIMAX
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EDIMAX BR-6675ND

Speedy Fast Connections.

FUTURE:

Simultaneous dual-band wireless connectivity (2.4 GHz & 5 GHz)
1 gigabit WAN port and 4 gigabit LAN ports
Complies with wireless 802.11n and 802.11a/b/g standards
Wireless speed up to 14 times faster and coverage 6 times further
Features iQoS for quick and easy bandwidth management
Built-in slide switch to enable/disable wireless signal
Supports WMM, WEP, WPA, WPA2, DDNS, QoS, IP/MAC filter, DMZ, and virtual server

"The Edimax BR-6675nD features a high-speed solution that complies with IEEE 802.11a/b/g/n standards."



\$201 | Genius Computer Technology (GCT) Ltd. | +971 4 8041888 | www.genius-me.com | Final Rating: ●●●●○

PROS

Easy setup. Great networking performance.

CONS

Could have benefited more if a USB port is included.

VERDICT

It may be on the expensive side, but the Edimax BR-6675nD definitely offers a superb wired/wireless solution for your network.

The Edimax BR-6675nD is an iQ router that provides simultaneous dual band 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz wireless network connectivity. This router allows users to use general network applications like web surfing via the 2.4 GHz bandwidth and stream HD video and other media through the 5 GHz bandwidth at the same time.

Additionally, the BR-6675nD features a single Gigabit WAN port and 4 Gigabit LAN ports, that offers users the need for maximum network performance data rates of up to 1000 Mbps. With Gigabit Ethernet connectivity, the BR-6675nD can provide users a fast and smooth media streaming or network gaming experience. It works especially well when you want to stream High Definition content without any problems.

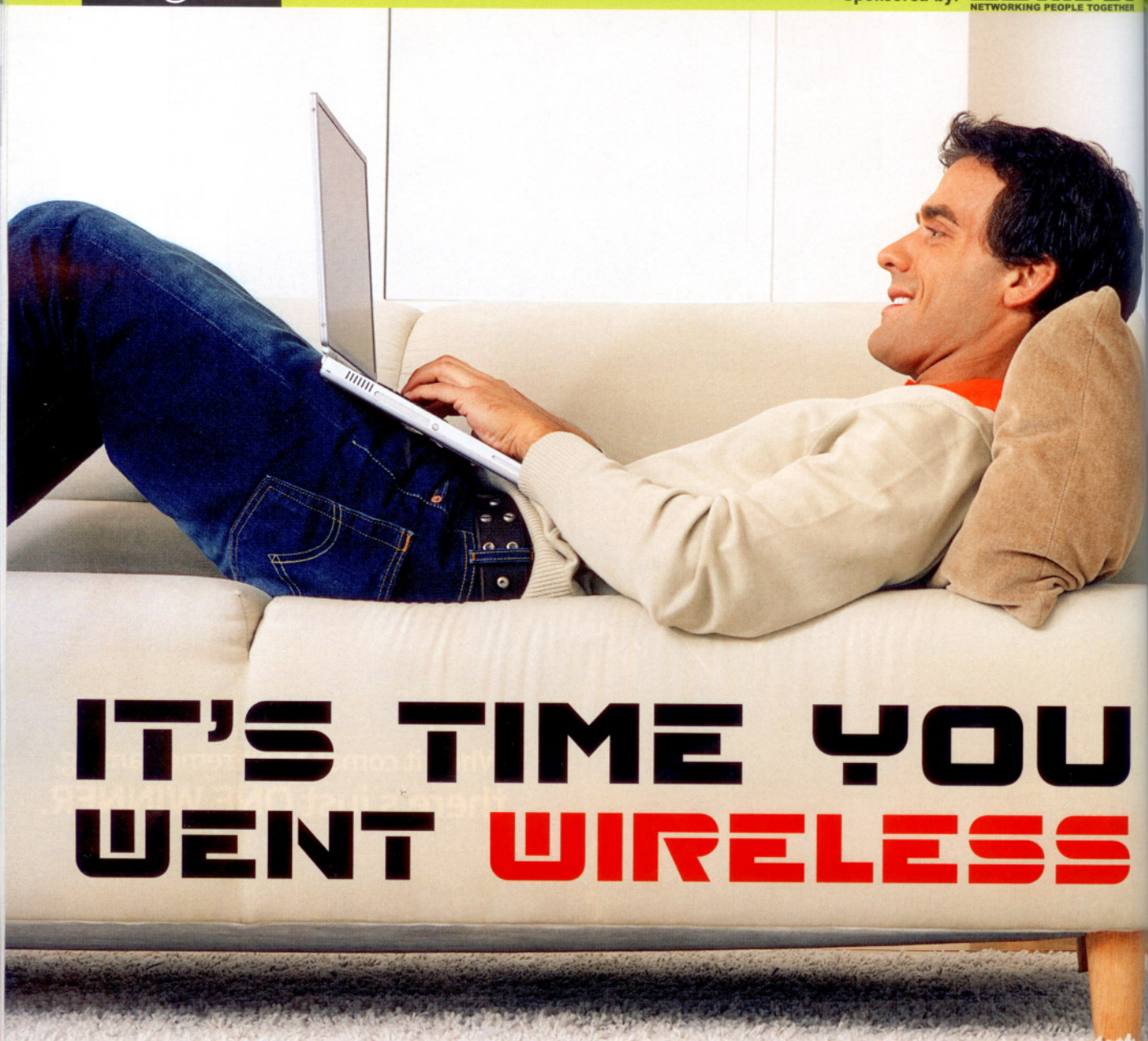
The iQoS is Edimax's answer to the need for a quicker, easier, and more

effective way to manage Internet bandwidth. Edimax mentions that most routers on the market feature QoS (Quality of Service) functionality, but the problem with this feature is that only advanced users know how to set it up. That is why Edimax redesigned this feature to make it user-friendly. The simple and intuitive user interface allows users to arrange bandwidth priority settings in just a few clicks.

The Edimax BR-6675nD features a high-speed solution that complies with IEEE 802.11a/b/g/n standards. The latest wireless technology is built into this router to broaden its wireless coverage by six times and to reduce dead spots within the wireless range. Theoretically, when it is connected to wireless 802.11n compatible devices, this router can achieve transmission rates of up to 450 Mbps. The Edimax BR-6675nD can also allow users to build secure connections with WPS

enabled wireless devices simply by pressing the WPS button. There is also a built-in WLAN switch. With the built-in WLAN on/off switch, users can also easily switch on/off the wireless connection without logging into the user interface. This switch provides users an easy way to save electricity by switching the Wi-Fi signal off when it is not in use. It could have been great if the router had a built-in USB port, just to expand its capabilities more.

In terms of setting up the router, there wasn't any problem configuring the device for usage. Once setup, the speeds provided were significantly faster in terms of file transfers and other connections. Transferring a 1.3 GB file from one notebook to another took less than two minutes. This was going on while a video file is currently streaming. It may be on the expensive side, but the Edimax BR-6675nD definitely offers a superb wired/wireless solution for your network.



IT'S TIME YOU WENT WIRELESS

Wireless networking might not sound so sexy and cool, but a wireless router is essential for connecting wireless devices throughout your home or office and for sharing Internet and other network resources, such as multimedia content, on your network. Our checklist helps you pick the best router for your needs.

Wireless routers are the starring players in a home or small business network, yet they often cause great frustration for home users, business users, and anyone who is not a wireless networking guru. Don't worry: we can help. There is one main reason why a wireless router can be a confusing piece of hardware: wireless signals. Wireless signals are subject to

interference from many things, from other nearby routers to the configuration of your home or office.

The enigma of wireless networking isn't helped by router makers who, in a frenzy to differentiate and sell their products, tout unrealistic bandwidth speeds, load on extra bells and whistles, and sometimes create products that are difficult for the average user to set up, manage, and optimize.

Sifting through all of the branding noise and choosing which router is best suited for your purposes can be a daunting task. Do you need a lesser expensive single-band router or a more expensive dual-band? Do you need to upgrade or purchase an 802.11n router? What benefits does 802.11n give? Does a higher-end router mean better Internet connectivity? What about IPv6—is it best to get a router that

supports IPv6?

These questions as well as factors like security, parental controls and extra features such as the ability to connect USB printers and external storage drives to a router for sharing in your personal network, are all considerations to weigh when deciding to purchase or upgrade a router. On top of the problem of just selecting a router is the complexity of Wi-Fi technology itself. Wi-Fi is a tricky beast and subject to so many varying factors and environmental fluctuations.

If there are many other wireless routers in your proximity, you face potential signal interference, especially on the more crowded 2.4 GHz band, a frequency that wireless routers use to transmit and receive data. Certain building materials, multilevel homes, glass partitions and household devices that operate on the 2.4 GHz frequency like microwaves, baby monitors, and cordless phones can all degrade wireless performance.

Businesses often spend thousands of dollars to hire wireless networking professionals to perform site surveys to determine the best equipment and means to deploy a wireless network. It is small wonder that home and small business users who may not have these professionals at their disposal can feel frustrated about purchasing, setting up and maintaining a wireless router and their own wireless networks! To assuage some of that frustration, we've compiled a list of questions to help you determine the best router for you.

Do You Need A Wi-Fi Router?

A router directs network traffic—broken down into small pieces of data called packets. With home routers, this is traffic that flows between the Internet connection your ISP provides and your internal, home or small business network. A wireless router allows wireless devices (and wired devices) to connect to that Internet connection and to communicate with other devices on your home network.

Some people only work from one laptop or PC that may be directly connected to their cable or DSL modems. They may not have other users or devices in their home or office that also need Internet connectivity or sharing printers and files. If this applies to you and you have no need to deviate from a fixed location from which you do your Internet surfing or computing, then you can don't need a wireless router.

However, with enticing gadgets like iPads, with gaming consoles, and in multi-

user households and offices, most people these days want and can benefit from a wireless router. With a Wi-Fi router browsing the Internet from an upstairs bedroom, giving Internet access to a game console or set-top box like a Roku, or sharing pictures and streaming music and video to all of the devices in a home or office is possible. If you want the capability to do these tasks, then yes, you need a router.

Single Band or Dual Band?

While researching routers, you will inevitably stumble across the term "bands." The 2.4 and 5 GHz bands are the frequencies in which wireless communications operate. 802.11 B and G devices use the 2.4 GHz band, while 802.11N can use either the 2.4 GHz or 5 GHz band. A single-band, 2.4-GHz router is geared toward simple wireless networks. On the other hand, a dual-band router supports both 2.4 and 5 GHz frequencies.

The 5 GHz band is less crowded than the 2.4 GHz band; less equipment runs on 5 GHz. That's why it's better equipped for throughput-intensive work within your home network such as gaming and file streaming. You will also get better internal network performance. The one downside of 5 GHz is that it does not sustain signal at greater distances as well as the 2.4 GHz band. So, if you are looking for a dual-band router to take advantage of the 5 GHz bandwidth—you'll want to factor in distance when placing the router in your home or office. One other thing to consider when it comes to Wi-Fi bands? Some of your devices may only work with a given band.

300 Mbps, 450 Mbps, 900 Mbps...All Those Numbers!

When router shopping you will notice three digit numbers emblazoned on most routers' packaging, indicating the speed of the router. A few years ago, 300 Mbps was the standard speed of most Wi-Fi routers. That meant that testing under the best circumstances, which means in what we call a "clean room" with no interference, the router can achieve up to 300 Mbps speeds. Currently, 450 Mbps or even 900 Mbps routers are being marketed. 900 Mbps is a touted speed of the latest dual band routers on the market, which can transmit a potential 450 Mbps on both the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands. $450 + 450 = 900$. Get it?

You however, will never see those speeds. Issues such as channel overlap and interference means a router in a typical

home or office environment will never reach these theoretical speeds touted by vendors. When testing at PC Magazine, which has a real-world testing environment, if we see speeds close to half of what a vendor says a router is capable of, that's excellent bandwidth!

Of course, fast router speeds don't have anything to do with how fast your Internet connection is. A 300 Mbps router won't make your Internet connection any faster than a 900 Mbps router. That speed is set by your ISP. What a faster speed router helps with is the performance of your internal network: streaming music and video, sharing files and so on.

Do I Need 802.11N?

802.11n is becoming the standard in wireless networking. If you are purchasing a new router, be it single or dual band—go with an 802.11n router. And not 802.11n draft, which is an older standard. 802.11n routers can run in "Mixed mode" so that non-802.11n wireless devices can connect as well.

What Type of Security?

Most of the newer routers support the highest level of security, WPA2. If in the market for a new router, make sure it supports WPA2. If you have children you may want to consider a router with parental controls.

What's My Comfort Level with Router Setup and Management?

Ironically, we find that the latest more expensive routers have the easiest setup. If you are more of a guru, and on a tighter-budget, you can get away with cheaper routers that do not offer automated setup. Because these routers do not have as sophisticated software for deploying as more expensive routers, a little more networking know-how is required to setup and manage them.

Other Considerations

If you are looking for a router that you don't want to upgrade anytime soon, consider going with one that supports IPv6. While conversion from IPv4 to IPv6 networking appears to still be some time coming, a router that supports IPv6 will help you keep your network intact when your ISP transitions over to IPv6 as well. Some routers also offer extras such as SD card slots and USB ports for printer sharing and external drive sharing. If those are features you want in your network, look for a router that support those features.

Top Wireless Routers

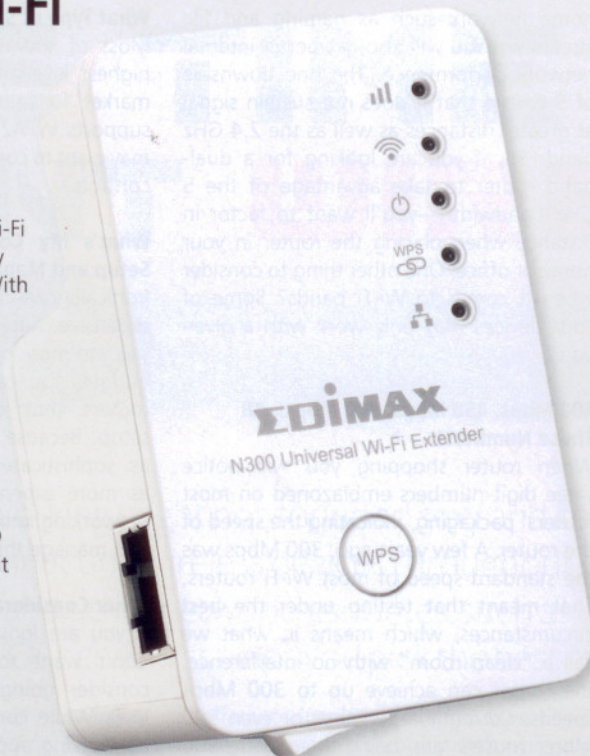


◀ Edimax Nano Router BR-6258n

The PC Magazine Editors' Choice award-winning BR-6258n is a miniature, energy-efficient, and space-saving wireless broadband router that is designed with pure stylishness. But this stylish router is not just about the looks, it has all the features that make it versatile and an extraordinary performer. With both a WAN port and a LAN port, the BR-6258n gives users the flexibility of using it as either a router or a wireless adapter. The true convenience of the design lies in that the user only needs to make the appropriate cable connections and the BR-6258n will switch between the two modes automatically.

Edimax EW-7438RPn N300 Universal Wi-Fi Extender ▶

The Edimax EW-7438RPn N300 Universal Wi-Fi Extender can easily double the signal coverage of your Wi-Fi network for better Wi-Fi quality in homes with many rooms or multiple floors. With both a Wi-Fi extender and a power adapter in a compact design, the EW-7438RPn can be plugged directly into an electrical outlet for convenient placement. The smart iQ Setup feature and the signal strength LED make it easy for you to set it up where your Wi-Fi signal needs enhancement.



Belkin N600 DB ▲

The Belkin N600 DB Wireless Dual-Band N+ Router is the fastest N600 router at long range versus other leading national brands. The router features advanced wireless performance for video streaming, online gaming, and other media-intensive applications. Belkin's exclusive MultiBeam technology minimizes dead spots and provides advanced coverage throughout your home, allowing you to stream HD video on more devices in more locations. The N600 DB can be installed in three easy steps, and preset security settings ensure that your network is safe as soon as it's up and running.

Cyberoam NetGenie ▶

Cyberoam NetGenie offers security against viruses, intruders, hackers, harmful Internet content and more to Home users as well as Small Offices, Home Offices (SOHO) when surfing online. Placed at the Internet entry point in the network, NetGenie secures and shares Internet connectivity across all Internet-access devices such as desktop, laptop, PDA, smart phone, other handheld devices and more.





◀ D-Link DIR-855 Wireless N Quadband Gigabit Router

The D-Link Wireless N Quadband Router (DIR-855) is the latest addition to company's Wireless N product family. Quadband technology supports Wireless N signals in both the 2.4 and 5 GHz frequency ranges simultaneously at full speed. This "true concurrent operation" allows you to check e-mail and browse the Internet using the 2.4GHz band while simultaneously streaming High-Definition (HD) movies and other media on the 5GHz band.

Linksys E4200 ▶

The Linksys E4200 connects all your computers, tablets, Internet-ready TVs, game consoles and other devices at wireless transfer rates of up to 300 + 450 Mbps for a premium home network experience. With a full 3x3 MIMO antenna array the Linksys E4200 provides exceptional coverage and reliability so you can enjoy wireless connectivity from anywhere in your home.



◀ Netgear WNR2000

The Netgear N300 Wireless Router is a simple and secure way to share your high-speed Internet connection at Wireless-N speeds for surfing the Internet, email, online chat and Facebook. Easy CD-less installation for iPad, tablets, smart-phones, and computers, while Wi-Fi Protected Setup gives you a secured connection at the push of a button. Compatibility with Wireless-G networks allows hassle-free connection flexibility.



Buffalo AirStation Nfiniti Dual Band Wireless-N WZR-HP-AG300H ▶

Buffalo's AirStation High Power N600 Gigabit Dual Band Wireless Router - WZR-HP-AG300H is a versatile dual band solution, ideal for the home and small office environments. Offering simultaneous wireless operation on both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands, the WZR-HP-AG300H is perfect for streaming HD movies, music and e-mailing from multiple devices at the same time. Coupled with High Power technology, including an onboard power amplifier and optimized antennae, the WZR-HP-AG300H provides exceptional range and increased performance at range.

