Router Cheat Sheets

How to Access a Router

1. Search for CMD or open a Command Prompt (C:\User\xx)
2. Type… ipconfig > Enter
3. Opposite the header "Default Gateway" is the address of your router
4. Open an Internet browser and in the address bar, add the numbers opposite Default Gateway, typically 192.168.x.x or 10.x.x.x > Enter
5. Accessing a router, requires a password and routers have defaults as follows:
   - Default User Name ,is typically… admin (not case sensitive)
   - Default Password is case sensitive and is either:
     - ✓ admin , or
     - ✓ Password, or in some rare cases
     - ✓ Leave the password field blank and click > Next
6. Try each and if one does not work, your best bet is to Google… what is default password for… (your router model number)
7. Once you add the correct User & password you will access the router GUI (Graphical User Interface)

How to Create a Wireless LAN

1. Open an Internet browser and in the address bar add the IP address of your router > then, add the default User Name & Password > Enter/Next

2. On the Menu you will see a link entitled "Wireless", click it

3. On the next page you will see, opposite the header "SSID", the name of you router e.g. Linksys, Netgear, whatever, change it!

4. The naming convention I use, is to link the name to your house number, e.g. 342 Network for the 2.4 GHz and 342_5G if you have a dual band

5. Click Save

6. Next, click "Security" and you will be present a list of alternatives

7. Place a bullet opposite WPA "AES" which is the highest level

8. In the "Shared Key/Password" box, type a password that you will not forget, if dual band, I use the same password for both networks

9. If all has been done correctly you have created either one or two proprietary WLANs

10. Go to a wireless appliance, click on wireless and you should see both networks if you have a relatively new computer, if not, you may only see the 2.4 network

How to Perform a Router Firmware Update

- Router vendors provide "firmware" updates to resolve router issues
- Firmware updates are not automatic and can only be applied by accessing a router
- A few routers (very few!) will automatically prompt and apply a firmware update when you logon to a router, if so follow the prompts
- If not, you can check for the ability of firmware updates as follows:
  - ✓ Write down the model number of your router
  - ✓ Go to the website of the vendor, click "Support", enter the model number of your router and you will get a display of the router updates
  - ✓ Select the most recent firmware update, updates are normally cumulative, download the update and save it to a folder on your computer
- Logon to your router, click "Administration" on the menu, look for "update firmware", you will be prompted for the location of the update, navigate to where you have saved the update, click to select and follow the prompts

Troubleshooting Routers

1. If you Enter > ipconfig and do not see 192.168.xx.x or 10.x.x.x opposite the header Default Gateway, ensure that your router is on and cables connected correctly? If you are sure that is the case, contact a Computer Club support person

2. For security purposes it's a good idea to change the router defaults but remember what they are or you will have to reset the router! Also remember the are two sets of User/Passwords, one for the router and one for the WLAN (your proprietary network)

3. If the default User Name & Passwords do not work, they are either being imputed incorrectly or someone has changed the router password. To resolve, depress the reset button on the router, until the lights recycle which will reset the router, proceed as if it's a "new" router

4. If you do not remember the password to your WLAN (network, not router) logon to your router, with some models you can "see/reveal" your password. If not, you must re-install you router and network by depressing the reset button and restoring the router to factory condition

5. Some older wireless appliances cannot connect to WPA AES level of security. This requires accessing the router and lowering the level of security until you can make a connection with an older appliance

6. If you are experiencing connection problems many times it is because your router requires an update (called "firmware") or you appliance requires an update. Check to see that both are current.

7. Routers fail, but before you conclude that is the case, router can benefit from a reset and or a firmware update