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 COMPLETE STORY 

Wireless Networking



Product Review: Buffalo AirStation 802.11g Wireless Kit

By Pam Baker
Wireless NewsFactor
June 15, 2004 1:59PM

The Buffalo AirStation 802.11g Kit includes a wireless access point that can accommodate both 11 Mbps 802.11b connections and the faster 802.11g 54 Mbps clients. The CardBus adaptor that comes with the kit slides into the side of a notebook to form the

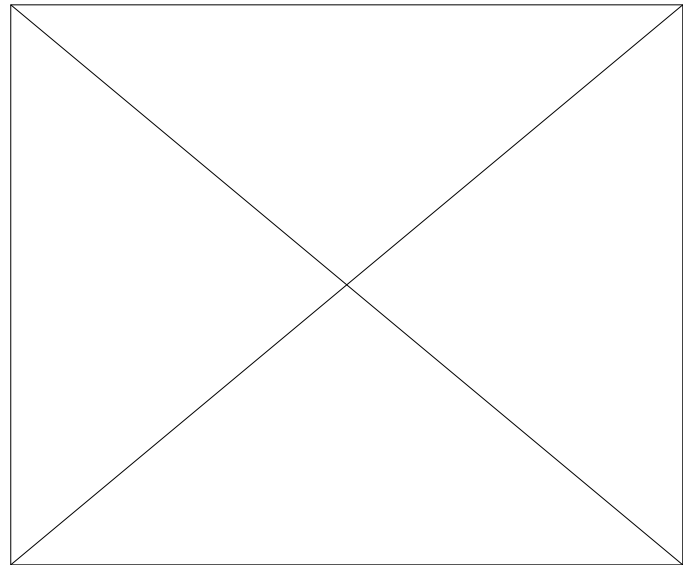
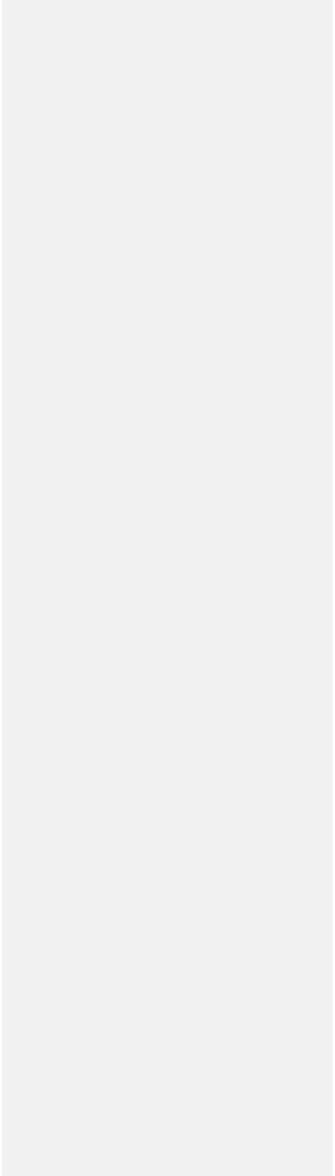
connection with the router.

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New to the American scene and hot on the heels of the popular Linksys Wireless-G 2.4 GHz router, the [Buffalo](#) AirStation 802.11g Kit offers some great perks.

For starters, the router can communicate simultaneously with PC 🖥️ and Macintosh 🍏 computers and has an intrusion-detector firewall that alerts users to the presence of unauthorized parties.

It also has great range. With Buffalo's directional antenna, networks easily can be extended over multiple floors (such as in two-story homes or offices), through thick walls and across very long buildings. The kit also comes with an easy set-up wizard to aid novices in getting the router to work with their cable or ADSL Internet connection.

Highlights and Drawbacks

Buffalo's AirStation 802.11g Kit contains one wireless 📶 access point with built-in broadband 🌐 router for cable and ADSL Internet connections, and one CardBus adapter for a laptop 📱. The router boosts wireless connection speeds of up to 54 megabits per second, is backward-compatible with older kits, and is fully compatible with all Wi-Fi 📶 products.



The router design is oddly egg-shaped. It sits on one end; status lights are on the front and sides. It has an Ethernet cable for connection to a broadband modem and an antenna plug on the rear to boost the signal. Administration is done through a Web browser and is platform-independent. All the usual settings can be accessed, including DHCP settings, MAC address filtering and time/date setup.

On the down side, the kit is difficult to find in American retail stores, although I did locate it at [Office Depot](#) . Buffalo is new to the U.S. market -- even though it is a significant player in Europe -- and distribution should improve over time.

Customization Options

Users can share an incoming cable or ADSL line between any combination of computers, from notebooks with wireless PC Cards to desktop systems with conventional 10/100 LAN ports. The router's built-in Ethernet switch supports four wired LAN clients.

The wireless access point can accommodate both 11 Mbps 802.11b connections and the faster 802.11g 54 Mbps clients. The CardBus adaptor that comes with the kit slides into the side of a notebook to form the connection with the router.

Buffalo's WLI-CB-G54 Wireless CardBus Adaptor includes all the required software needed to function. Transfer speeds are around 10 Mbps, very similar to Linksys equipment. The card works with the Linksys 802.11g access point, and the Buffalo access point works with the Linksys notebook adaptor.

Bottom Line

Though its price is roughly 20 percent higher than similar Linksys equipment, the Buffalo AirStation 802.11g Kit is still affordable at US\$165, and its perks are easily worth the extra money.

On a scale of 1 to 5, I give the Buffalo AirStation 802.11g Kit a 4 rating. 



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