

Rolls of wiring running through your home or office getting you in knots? Time to de-clutter with Broadband Wireless.

How many times have you called your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to complain about a lapse in service, only to realize later, much to your surprise and embarrassment that the wiring has been chewed on by your pet or you accidentally disconnected a few cables the last time you tripped over the snake-like mess? **Broadband Wireless** is the best thing that could have happened for those of us who are lost each time trying to figure out which wire goes where since they all look the same.

Broadband Wireless is not a type of broadband. It simply means getting rid of all the wiring and using your office or home space more efficiently just by getting the right kind of router for your home broadband. **Broadband Wireless** works through Routers which incorporate a DSL-modem or a cable-modem and a Wi-Fi access point, often set up in homes and other premises, to provide Internet-access and internetworking to all devices connected (wirelessly or by cable) to them. The best part about **Broadband Wireless** is that now you can access the web from anywhere in your home, like the kitchen or even the garden.

Broadband Wireless is not the same as mobile broadband. A **Broadband Wireless** connection allows you to connect to the internet within a radius of 100m of your home. No matter how convenient mobile broadband sounds by giving you access anytime anywhere, it still needs work when it comes to connectivity and speed. And not to mention the download allowances for a mobile broadband are still very stringent as compared to **Broadband Wireless**.

❖ **Advantages of Broadband Wireless:**

✓ Greater Mobility

No need to stay glued to your chair, now with **Broadband Wireless** you can move around the house with your laptop, game console or PC (if you think carrying that around will help) and still be connected.

✓ Multiple Connections

You don't have to fight off your family anymore just to get some office work out of the way. Now you have the convenience of connecting your laptop and home PCs all at once. Now the kids can keep tweeting while you get your reports done and the wife manages the accounts online all thanks to **Broadband Wireless**.

✓ Stay Connected

Broadband Wireless helps you stay connected at all times, now even your PDAs and phones can be connected.

✓ Switching-over made easy

Your home broadband can conveniently be turned into **Broadband Wireless** by connecting a wi-fi router to your modem. And since some ISPs like BT, AOL and Be Broadband offer free wireless routers and security suits when you sign up, you can get yourself quite a deal.

❖ **Does Broadband Wireless have any disadvantages?**

All good things in life have their vices, but nothing that can't be taken care of with a little caution. So the things you need to watch out for are:

✓ Make sure you have the right level of security set up so that neighbours, passers-by and hackers don't have a good time at your expense as **Broadband Wireless** does cover a good 100m radius.

✓ You might be forced to send your router back in case you wish to change your **Broadband Wireless** ISP. However, that would depend entirely on your provider.

❖ **Security First!**

✓ WEP is Wired Equivalent Privacy that encrypts data before transmission for **Broadband Wireless** connections. As all wireless stations would need to use the same settings, it gives greater security and privacy, since they would need a unique WEP Key before they can get in.

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- ✓ Another way of dealing with **Broadband Wireless** security issues is by looking for the physical addresses of the computers you want to have on the 'access control' 'allow list' of the router by clicking **Start>Run** and typing **cmd**, **followed by ipconfig/all** on the stations to be connected. Access can then be granted by updating these addresses on your computer which shall lock out others.

❖ **Get your own Broadband Wireless-**

- ✓ Either, you can hand-pick the features you want on your router for the **Broadband Wireless** rather than just taking whichever one your ISP sends you. (If you are adventurous enough to invest time in setting the **Broadband Wireless** yourself.)
- ✓ Or, in case you have better negotiation power, you could ask your current provider to get you a free **Broadband Wireless** router, as being a new customer elsewhere would fetch you this benefit. You could also offer to renew your current contract in exchange for a free router and get a pre-configured **Broadband Wireless** router without going through the pain of switching providers.

❖ **The top providers of Broadband Wireless in UK are:**

- ✓ **BT**
- ✓ **O2**
- ✓ **Be Broadband**
- ✓ **AOL**
- ✓ **PlusNet**