



KINGDOM

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

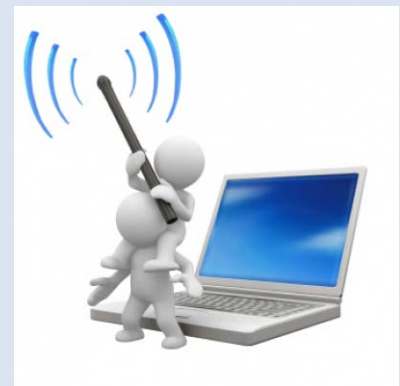
— *making life better* —

Kingdom e-News

September 2011

Improving Your Wireless Network

Wireless technology is fast becoming the norm in most homes, and losing some of the tangled cords and cables is certainly a plus. Even better, you aren't stuck in one room, tied to a desk and sitting on what probably is an uncomfortable chair. Now you can roam to the couch, kitchen, bedroom, or outdoors – as far as the wireless signal allows you to go.



Sometimes a wireless signal doesn't carry that far. In fact, it's possible your Windows operating system might notify you of a weak Wi-Fi signal or even that the connection may be lost entirely in some parts of your home. The good news is there are a number of very basic steps you can take to extend your wireless range, as well as improve your network speed and performance.

For the best signal, place your wireless connection in a central location in your home. Locate the router on a flat surface off the floor. If your router is near an outside wall of the house, the signal will be weak on the opposite side of the building. If your router is on the first floor and your PC or laptop is on the second floor, place the router high on a shelf in the room where it is located. You get the picture.

When choosing a place for your wireless router to live, avoid proximity to metal objects, walls, and floors. The closer your connection is to these obstructions, the more severe the interference will be and the weaker the connection.

Another cause of wireless interference is electronic. The most common wireless technology, 802.11g (wireless-G), operates at a frequency of 2.4 gigahertz (GHz). Many cordless phones, microwave ovens, baby monitors, garage door openers, and other wireless electronics also use this frequency. Avoid wireless electronics which use the 2.4GHz frequency, and purchase cordless phones and other products that use the 900MHz or 5.8GHz frequencies.

Just as electronic devices share the same frequencies, the wireless networks of your neighbors generally all use the same frequency of radio signal. Interference between home networks is not uncommon, especially in buildings that share walls with each other. If interference is a problem with your connection, try switching to another channel. The 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi signal range is divided into a number of smaller channels. In the United States, the available Wi-Fi channels are 1 – 11. Many wireless products default to Wi-Fi channel 6. Unlike television channels, some Wi-Fi channel numbers overlap with each other. Channel 1 uses the lowest frequency band and each subsequent channel increases the frequency slightly. The further apart two channel numbers are, the less the degree of overlap and likelihood of interference. Both channels 1 and 11 do not overlap with the default channel 6; use one of these three channels for best results. For information on how to change your Wi-Fi channel , visit this web site: <http://www.howtODOthings.com/computers-internet/how-to-change-your-wi-fi-channel-number> .

Updating the firmware or software for your router or network adapter will improve your wireless connection as well. Manufacturers regularly make free improvements that enhance performance and reliability. To update the firmware for your router, visit the manufacturer's website. Update your network adapter driver through the Windows Update feature of Windows 7 and Vista or visit the website www.update.microsoft.com for Windows XP.

Ask Tech Support



Question: What is a .dll file?

Answer: A DLL file or dynamic link library is a collection of small programs that can be called upon when needed by the executable program (EXE) that is running. The DLL file lets the executable file communicate with a specific device, such as a printer, or it may contain source code for performing particular functions. The code and data it contains can be used by more than one program.

The advantage of DLL files is that, because they do not get loaded into random access memory (RAM) with the main program, space is saved in RAM and your computer runs faster. When and if a DLL file is called, then it is loaded. For example, if you are editing a Microsoft Word document, the printer DLL file does not need to be loaded into RAM. If you decide to print the document, then the printer DLL file is loaded and a call is made to print.

Sites to See

<http://www.the-leaky-cauldron.org/features/crafts>

The Leaky Cauldron

If you are enamored of all things Harry Potter, you will recognize the name of the web site as a reference to the fictional pub located in the magical Diagon Alley of the Potter books. If you are a Harry fan AND enjoy crafting, head directly to the crafts portion of the site. You will find pictures, tutorials, and patterns so you can “potterize” your favorite crafts. A long list of crafty activities includes crochet, interior decorating, food, woodworking, jewelry, knitting, needlework, party planning, contests and craft-alongs.



http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/history/?utm_source=smithsonianinsider&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=201108-insider

Past Imperfect

You'll forget that history can be dry, dusty, and boring when you read this blog from the Smithsonian Magazine. Nearly brand new, the blog was launched in late July. You'll enjoy posts full of intriguing tidbits from the 17th to the 20th century. Delve into unsolved mysteries, scandals, crimes, and stories strange but true. From pirates to politicians, larger than life figures make up the colorful, often obscure, cast of characters drawn from every corner of the globe. Want to get hooked immediately? Start off with the August 12 entry, The Body on Somerton Beach.

<http://www.picturedots.com/>

Picture Dots

It's a safe bet that a lot of us were somewhat addicted to dot-to-dot puzzles when we were kids. In fact, there may be some who still indulge. Now, with this web site, you can select the photograph of your choice and make your own dot-to-dot pictures. All you have to do is pick a digital photo and click to add the dots. The numbers generate automatically. Print the results, grab a pencil, and connect! Nearly 8,500 users have shared the puzzles they created, which can be printed out and connected.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/sled-dogs-an-alaskan-epic/introduction/3146/>

Sled Dogs: An Alaskan Epic

Did you know a sled dog can consume up to 10,000 calories a day? They need a lot of fuel to do their jobs. Bigger teams, including one that included more than 200 dogs, have been known to pull buses and even help move houses. Learn about these fascinating animals on this segment of the web site from the PBS program Nature. Read the story of Balto who saved the children of Nome, Alaska from a diphtheria epidemic and check out the interactive Dogsledding 101 to find out what it takes to lead a sled dog team to victory.

<http://www.stardate.org/>

Stardate Online

StarDate is the public education and outreach arm of the University of Texas McDonald Observatory. In addition to the web site, a radio program airs on more than 300 stations and an astronomy magazine is published bi-monthly. Recent episodes of the radio program are available on the web site as well as a wealth of other information. An Astro Guide takes you through our solar system and beyond. Weekly stargazing tips are available and a beginner's guide to astronomy shows you how to get started in the captivating hobby.

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Mini-Tutorial: Go Full Screen for a Great View



When you want to enjoy a photograph or video, making it as large as possible is important. You don't have to be content with maximizing the window, go full screen to get the best view. Especially handy for viewing photos and videos in Windows Explorer or Windows Media Player, you can utilize screen space normally occupied by the header at the top of the screen and the taskbar at the bottom.

1. Open any photo in Windows Explorer, or open a photo or video clip in Windows Media Player.
2. In Windows 7 and Windows XP, click F11 at the top of your keyboard. The photo or video image enlarges to its maximum size and the title bar and taskbar are hidden.
3. When you are ready to restore the window to its normal view, press the Esc (Escape) key.