

Willie's Wonkey Computer Factory

There's nothing more frustrating than a **wonkey wireless network!** This happens primarily because of signal strength issues, which in turn, affects your browsing and downloading speeds. Before you know it, you don't get as fast of a speed in the bedroom as you are in the living room. Let's look at improving your home wireless network.

- 1.) First, keep the wireless router in a central place. If you have computers in different rooms, placing the router somewhere in the middle ensures equal flow to both.
- 2.) A wireless signal is sent from the router to the computer and back! So, even if the computer is able to receive the signal, at times it is not able to send back as smoothly. That is mainly because of a poor wireless network adapter inside the PC. Replacing the internal adapter with a USB version (which has an external antenna) can improve this.
- 3.) Sometimes, the distance is too much, or the walls too thick for the wireless router to cover and the signal gets lost. To combat this, you can use wireless repeaters. They extend your wireless network further, without having to install another router. The repeater simply intercepts the signal from the wireless router and extends it further.
- 4.) Wireless routers can operate on different channels, like radio stations. Sometimes, you can hear one radio station clearer than another. The channels they operate on are 1, 6 and 11, but there's nothing to stop you from trying them all. At times, one channel is clearer than the other, so in case of problems, it's a good idea to change the channels.
- 5.) Wireless routers use the 2.4 GHz frequencies. If you have other wireless stuff in your home on the same frequency, there's going to be a clash. Although the router will function normally, it might have to work harder to send/receive the signal, so it's a good idea to buy wireless electronics that use other frequency ranges.
- 6.) As with most applications, it's very important to constantly update the firmware for your router and the drivers for your wireless network adapter. This will improve the performance, as well as reliability.
- 7.) Most of the wireless networks are type 802.11b; however 802.11g is about five times faster! If you are using an 802.11b and in spite of following the above advice, your speed still doesn't improve, then consider upgrading to an 802.11g. This means upgrading the router and the network adapter to 802.11g equipment as well. There will be a considerable improvement in your network speed.

Now, go on and give these a try!

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