



802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide, Second Edition

By Matthew S. Gast

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Matthew S. Gast

As we all know by now, wireless networks offer many advantages over fixed (or wired) networks. Foremost on that list is mobility, since going wireless frees you from the tether of an Ethernet cable at a desk. But that's just the tip of the cable-free iceberg. Wireless networks are also more flexible, faster and easier for you to use, and more affordable to deploy and maintain. The de facto standard for wireless networking is the 802.11 protocol, which includes Wi-Fi (the wireless standard known as 802.11b) and its faster cousin, 802.11g. With easy-to-install 802.11 network hardware available everywhere you turn, the choice seems simple, and many people dive into wireless computing with less thought and planning than they'd give to a wired network. But it's wise to be familiar with both the capabilities and risks associated with the 802.11 protocols. And *802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide*, 2nd Edition is the perfect place to start. This updated edition covers everything you'll ever need to know about wireless technology. Designed with the system administrator or serious home user in mind, it's a no-nonsense guide for setting up 802.11 on Windows and Linux. Among the wide range of topics covered are discussions on:

- deployment considerations
- network monitoring and performance tuning
- wireless security issues
- how to use and select access points
- network monitoring essentials
- wireless card configuration
- security issues unique to wireless networks

With wireless technology, the advantages to its users are indeed plentiful. Companies no longer have to deal with the hassle and expense of wiring buildings, and households with several computers can avoid fights over who's online. And now, with *802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide*, 2nd Edition, you can integrate wireless technology into your current infrastructure with the utmost confidence.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Among network designers and administrators, wired Ethernet is a known quantity. Plenty is known about how to build good twisted-pair network infrastructures, how to keep them secure, and how to monitor their excess capacity. Not so for the wireless Ethernet networks (built around the IEEE 802.11x standards)--these hold much more mystery for even experienced network designers. *802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide* aims to codify the body of knowledge needed to design and maintain wireless local area networks (LANs). The authors succeed admirably in this, covering what installation and administration teams need to know and digging into information of use to driver writers and others working at lower levels.

The only significant detail that's been excluded has to do with security--a notorious weak point of 802.11x LANs. The authors cover the feeble but widely used Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) authentication protocol in detail and devote another whole chapter to 802.11x, which is an emerging authentication scheme based on Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP). The author has considerable skill in communicating information graphically and does a great job of using graphs to show how communications frequencies shift over time and how conversations among access points and network nodes progress over time. This is indeed an authoritative document. --*David Wall*

Topics covered: How IEEE 802.11a and 802.11b wireless networks (also known as WiFi networks) work, and how to configure your own. The framing specification is covered well, as are authentication protocols and (in detail) the physical phenomena that affect IEEE 802.11x radio transmissions. There's advice on how to design a wireless network topology, and how to go about network traffic analysis and performance improvement.

Review

'Building Wireless Community Networks is an enthusiastic introductory guide to a technology which can really be put to use to change people's lives. Wireless gives the power of the network back to the people, and this book helps to demystify the technology and enable any community to take control.' *Linux User*, March/April (Classic Title)

About the Author

Matthew Gast works in the Office of the CTO at Trapeze Networks, where he leads the development of open wireless network standards and their application to the Trapeze architecture. He is a member of the IEEE 802.11 working group, and serves as chair of 802.11 Task Group M. As chair of the Wi-Fi Alliance's Wireless Network Management marketing task group, he is leading the investigation of certification requirements for power saving, performance optimization, and location and timing services. Matthew also chairs the Security Technical task group, which is extending Wi-Fi protected Access (WPA) certification to incorporate newly-developed security mechanisms so that it remains the strongest form of protection available for Wi-Fi networking. In 2007, Matthew was a founder of the OpenSEA Alliance, a group organized to support the development of open-source network security solutions. He currently serves on the engineering steering committee, the organization's board of directors, and as its corporate secretary. Matthew's most recent book, *802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide* (O'Reilly Media), now in its second edition, is the top selling reference work in the field and has been translated into six languages.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shane Webb:

Reading can be called brain hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled 802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide, Second Edition the mind will drift away through every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The 802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide, Second Edition giving you an additional experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Paul Steinbach:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended for you is 802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide, Second Edition this publication consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The words styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Here is why this book appropriate all of you.

Christopher Pruett:

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