Home Networking for the Non-Geek

ITEMS REQUIRED TO SET UP A HOME NETWORK

1. An Internet Service Provider (ISP) (Cox, Time Warner, AT & T)
2. A modem (May be provided by ISP or you can purchase one)
3. Router (Hardwire or Wireless) - Usually purchased by the individual, may be a special purchase from your ISP
4. Network Cables or Wireless Adapters
5. Network Interface Devices: Network interface devices will be required for every computer you plan to connect through the router. These will vary depending on whether you choose hard-wired or wireless. This may be a "wireless card" which goes into your computer, or it can be a USB device which plugs into the computer. Many computers (such as laptops and tablets) have them built-in.

THE MODEM

- There are many brands and types available to purchase than can run from about $35 to $165
- Getting one from the ISP may be the best until you use it awhile and then you can always purchase your own instead of paying the monthly fee (around $10)
- There are many specifications but the main one to consider is the Docsis number. Docsis 3 is the best.
- Do not get a Docsis 1. Check to see if your ISP supports the Docsis 3 before purchasing.

ROUTER

- There are many brands and models – everyone has their own preference.
- YOU decide what YOU want (wired or wireless) based on YOUR needs.
- I recommend a combination router (some GB wired ports and wireless).
- A Type N is the most popular right now. (Much faster than Type G).
- Type AC is available and is much faster than Type N. Also more expensive.
- A type N router can be purchased starting at about $35 and going up.
- Type AC starts at about $140 and goes up.

CABLES REQUIRED

- The cables required are referred to as CAT-5 or CAT-6 cables and are terminated with a connector referred to as an RJ-45 connector. They look like a larger phone cable. Some people may call them an "Ethernet cable".
- The cables come in various lengths already assembled.
- A minimum of one cable about 3 or 4 feet long is required (One is usually included with the router).

PROCEDURE

1. READ THE DIRECTIONS on all hardware before starting.
2. Set up the modem connected directly to your main computer.
3. Remove the cable which connects the modem to the computer, and plug it into the router connector.
4. Run a CAT-5/6 cable from your router to your main computer.
5. Verify that your computer is able to access the internet.
6. Procedure will vary from here depending on whether you chose hard-wired or wireless connection for your other computers
   - Hard-Wired – Install a CAT-5/6 cable from the router to the other computer(s).
   - Wireless - Follow the instructions in the manual for setting up the additional computer(s). If it is not built in, you will have to install the network interface device at this time.

SUMMARY

1. Networking is not a real difficult task.
2. ANYONE can set it up.
3. Read the instruction manuals for all hardware BEFORE you attempt to start the installation, and follow the directions carefully during the process.
4. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you hit a snag.
5. Don't be intimidated by well-meaning friends. Decide what you want and stick with it.

One final note: DO NOT forget to setup the security on your wireless, following the directions in the manual.

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