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WIRELESS ADSL ROUTER

US Robotics SureConnect ADSL Wireless Gateway

£79 inc VAT



The SureConnect Wireless Gateway is the cheapest and fastest ADSL router on test.

The US Robotics SureConnect USR019106 is a wireless router with an ADSL modem built-in. It transferred our 100 MB test files in 1 minute and 27 seconds. That makes it the fastest of the three routers on test that have

built-in ADSL modems. If you have an ADSL connection and you want to share it around the house with maximum speed and minimum hassle, then this is the router for you.

Setting up the USR is more complicated than setting up the other routers in this group test. You have to configure your ADSL connection manually. This involves calling your ISP and getting several settings from them, then entering those settings into the router. Automatic setup would have been preferable, but you'll only have to go through this rigmarole once and, really, it isn't that difficult.

Setting up the router to work as a wireless hub is

mercifully far simpler. Our sample broadcast a network with a default SSID (identifying name) as soon as we plugged it in. All we had to do was log on to that wireless network, change its name to something more meaningful and then secure it using encryption and other techniques.

If for some reason your router doesn't broadcast wirelessly from the word go, you can easily remedy this by connecting to it physically using an Ethernet cable, type the router's IP address in your browser and then run through the setup routine using the router's Web interface.

Unlike the other routers here, the SureConnect doesn't

support the older WEP security standard. This won't be a problem for most users, who are far better off using the newer WPA standard which this router does support.

If you do have older devices that haven't been upgraded to support WPA, however, it will be difficult to secure your network. On the bright side, as well as the built-in firewall, you also get a free copy of Norton Personal Firewall to install on your PC. This is useful as an extra layer of protection both because it will block threats coming from the web and also because, if you configure it properly, it will let you know if someone has broken into your network and is trying to access your PC. It's unlikely that anyone will be able to get onto a well-encrypted wireless network, but if they do it's good to have that extra layer of protection.

We would have preferred it if the SureConnect had had some kind of automated setup routine for ADSL. That aside, it's the fastest ADSL router here, and it's also the cheapest ADSL router as well. If you want to share your ADSL broadband connection around the house, this is the product to buy.

 **Cheap; fast transfer speeds.**

 **No support for WEP security.**

 **TYPE** wireless ADSL router
STANDARDS SUPPORTED 802.11b, 802.11g **PORTS** four 10/100 Ethernet, one DSL port **ANTENNA** two external **SECURITY** WPA, URL filtering, IP filtering, port filtering, firewall **SIZE** 280x96x23mm (wdh) **EXTRAS** network cable, Norton Personal Firewall **CONTACT** www.broadbandstuff.co.uk **WEB SITE** www.usr.com **MANUFACTURER'S CODE** USR019106