

Computer Advice From



Propeller Head

Just recently, there's been a lot of discussion in the press about wireless networks and potential health problems. Whilst there are no scientific studies which prove the existence of any issues, it's understandable that some people may be concerned. So, if you want to be able to use your computer from nearly every room in the house but you don't want to go WiFi are there any other options that don't destroy your decorations and leave wires trailing everywhere? Yes!

You can do 'powerline networking'. This is based on the concept of 'no new wires' and is very convenient because there is usually electrical socket in nearly every room (apart from the bathroom). In powerline networking, you connect your computer to your broadband router via the power circuit. It works on the simple principle of data moving via ethernet carried in the power circuit wiring.

To set this up, you'll need to purchase two powerline ethernet bridges. Plug one in near your broadband router and connect to it with the usual cable. You can then plug the other ethernet bridge into any power socket in your house and plug in your computer. It's a reliable and invisible way to connect and the operating speed (usually around 85 mbits/sec) is good. Power circuit ethernet bridges are available from many sources and usually cost around £70 for two. No setting up is needed, you just plug them in and away you go.