



Revamped G

D-Link Wireless G Router

BY NAVIN DANAPAL



In October 2005, we did a previous version of this D-Link Wireless G (IEEE 802.11g for up to 54Mbps) broadband router. Slightly more than two years later, D-Link updates this model for users who already have an ADSL modem – but need wireless access, as well as a hardware firewall, and maybe even a switch to connect to wired computers and devices (like a network hard drive).

It's no surprise that G is still alive and kicking in the Draft N 2.0 age, since N has yet to reach an industry standard, and those looking for a confirmed compatibility would be better off sticking with G. In addition, since our broadband services don't offer beyond 8Mbps, there is little need to get an N router, other than for its wireless local network speed advantage. So, if this meets your needs, then this G would appeal to you very nicely.

The antenna is removable, so you can always upgrade the router's performance or coverage, or both, with a higher-gain antenna. Since it also comes with a vertical stand, you can help boost its signal by standing it upright – this also helps conserve space since the router is rather small too.

For the client adapter to test this router, D-Link provided us with a Super G model, designed to run

up to Megabit (108Mbps) levels, but since the router itself isn't capable of Super G, of course you won't see any speeds beyond 54Mbps, which is G. Therefore if you plan to get your own D-Link wireless network, you might want to look for the standard G client adapter to go with this router.

Since this is an updated G router, D-Link has also thrown in modern features like quality of service (QoS) support, which comes in handy if you use a lot of Internet-dependent applications, like Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Skype, online games, and media servers. QoS ensures applications constantly get fair bandwidth to combat unwanted spikes in heavy Internet usage. If you play online games and have problems connecting from behind your router, this D-Link also has a game compatibility feature which can help solve those woes.

Expected features like filtering (Machine Addressable Code, Universal Resource Locator, scheduling), de-militarized zone (DMZ), virtual private network (VPN), network security, dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP), anti-denial of service (DoS), dynamic domain name server (DNS), and Web-based configuration access, are present as well. Other useful features like hiding this D-Link from being detected by other wireless devices (except for those who know

the name), is also found as a standard feature, as well as port forwarding, to allow certain applications access, bypassing the router's firewall.

D-Link has also updated this router with their new help and navigation system in the router's configuration Web pages, which is built into the router and accessible via its 192.168.0.1 URL, so you can do settings with ease.

SPECIFICATIONS

WiFi	Max Speed	QoS	Router	DWL-6650
G	54Mbps	Yes	RM 159	RM 120

Models : DIR-300 (router), DWL-6650 (PCMCIA)
Router Wired Network Switch : 4x automatic crossover-straight Megabit (100Mbps) ports
Wireless Compatibility : B (11Mbps)
Vertical Option : Yes
USB2 (480Mbps) Port : No
Environmental Compliance : No
Router Package : Network cable, printed quick install guide, CD (manual), 100-240V to 5V power adapter, registration and warranty booklet, mounting screws, rubber pads
PCMCIA Package : Printed quick install guide, CD (software)
Warranty : Lifetime
Contact : AdvanceNet Technology Sdn Bhd / Ingram Micro Malaysia Sdn Bhd / SIS Distribution (M) Sdn Bhd
Telephone : (03) 8070 3633 / (03) 7952 8188 / (03) 5569 8878
URL : www.dlink.com.my

Available at
PLAZA LOW YAT
 shopping centre

HWM'S VERDICT

Physique: **8.0**
 Features: **8.5**
 Performance: **8.0**
 User Friendliness: **9.0**
 Value: **8.5**

8.0

Out of 10

A good, basic router with modern updates



Router's Web-based settings screen

Tests:

Distance	Average Signal	Average Speed	Average Throughput	1GB Copy time
02 meters	100%	54Mbps	30% (16Mbps)	11 minutes
10 meters	90%	54Mbps	20% (10Mbps)	12 minutes
20 meters	60%	54Mbps	30% (16Mbps)	13 minutes

All wireless tests are conducted via a generic notebook with the provided wireless client adapter device using the latest drivers and firmware. Performance is gauged at varying distances by moving the notebook around, while the tested wireless router stays above a server rack case.

The router is connected via a network cable to a test computer's Gigabit (1Gbps) port. 1GB of data, of various file sizes, is copied over the wireless network. The tests take into account obstacles like people and partitions, and hence the results can vary with different environments.