

Detouring Around Obstacles

Radio waves travel freely in the air until they run up against metal or water. Both elements stop radio waves in their tracks. The water problem probably isn't something to worry about in your house, unless you plan to store your computer under a waterbed. However, the metal problem can be serious.

Plaster walls with metal lath, and walls that hold cast-iron plumbing pipes, frequently interfere with the ability to run a wireless network in a home. Of course, you could replace all the plaster with drywall and replace the drainpipes with PVC pipes, but that seems a bit much just to have a wireless network. Some people have reported that the metal ductwork for heating and air-conditioning systems also interferes with wireless communications.

The problem of metal isn't restricted to what's in your walls. You can't put your computer under a metal desk or in a place where a metal file cabinet or bookcase is between the computers that need to talk to each other.

Another (actually, more common) obstruction that your wireless network may encounter is radio-signal interference. For example, the 2.4-GHz frequency that's used by 802.11b and 802.11g devices is also used by most cordless telephones. In fact, you should always avoid putting a computer near the phone's base station (which is an extremely active transceiver). Microwave ovens also "broadcast" in the 2.4-GHz band, so keep your computers away. In addition, you can experience interference from fluorescent lights. Sometimes interference comes from



Labor Day Fireworks- Cincinnati, OH

any dense obstruction that might be in the path of your wireless signal. Communications aren't stopped dead, but they're slower and travel only a short distance. For example, a pile of books near the antenna can mess up your wireless signal.

Adapted From: Home Networking For Dummies, 4th Edition

Using Office XP on Your Pocket PC

Laptop computers continue to drop in price and weight, yet increase in power. Some of the latest laptop computers weigh less than three pounds and have enough memory and processing power to run a full-blown copy of Microsoft Office XP.



But rather than lug a laptop computer around the country, many people are opting for smaller, cheaper, and lighter handheld computers that run a slightly different operating system called PocketPC.

PocketPC comes with a miniature version of Microsoft Office — dubbed Pocket Office — that includes Pocket

Word, Pocket Excel, Pocket PowerPoint, and Pocket Access.

These pocket versions of Microsoft Office provide fewer features than the complete Microsoft Office XP suite. But Pocket Office can share data with your Microsoft Office XP programs, making it perfect for taking your data on the road and viewing or editing it on a handheld computer.

Adapted From: Office XP For Dummies

ISOCNET Customers say it best:



After many years on the computer, with ISOC on my side, I still feel like an illiterate. Jon has patiently walked me through lots of

problems. In fact he is the reason we have not switched to another server...Thank you so much.

-Marilyn

STOP Printing that Word Document!

Sometimes you begin to print a Word document and then change your mind. How do you stop a print job? Because Word simply passes off its printing jobs to Windows, there is no obvious way to cancel printing. It can be done if you're crafty, however. Follow these steps:

1. Locate the printer icon located on the taskbar at the bottom-right of your screen. (Look near the current-time display.)
2. Double-click the little printer icon.
3. Click the name of your Word document "job" in the Print Manager's list.

4. Choose Document-->Cancel Printing.

You may be asked whether you really want to terminate the employee, er, print job. Click OK. If you're using a network printer, you may not be able to cancel the document. Oh well.

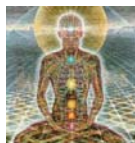
5. Choose Printer-->Close.

You are zapped back to Word, ready for more editing action.

Adapted From: Word 97 for Windows For Dummies

Wisdom to Live by:

Change your thoughts and you change your world.



Norman Vincent Peale

What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.

Joseph Addison

What Your Firewall Can Do For You

The firewall blocks communication in both directions — to and from the Internet. A firewall works by watching everything that happens on your computer that has anything to do with activity outside your computer. Unless you say that it's okay, no action can occur between your computer and another computer. That other computer could be on the Internet or on your network.

Because the firewall stops any computer from accessing your computer, you must configure the firewall software to accept communications between your computer and the other computers on your network. Doing so frees the firewall to concentrate on communications between your computer and a computer on the Internet.

Any computer that tries to access your computer is either stopped dead

in its tracks or is stopped temporarily until you tell the firewall whether to let the computer gain access (depending on the way you configure the firewall's behavior).

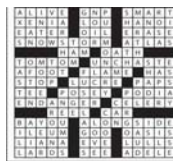
Computers send and receive data via ports. When an intruder attempts to reach your IP address, it's really your communication ports that are being examined. In addition to the visible ports, such as your USB, your computer contains thousands of virtual ports. You can't see a virtual port because it's a software service rather than a physical connector.

However, as does a physical port, a virtual port accepts and sends data.

Adapted From: Home Networking For Dummies, 4th Edition

Your Word for Today:

Breadcrumb



The nickname for a top navigation

menu that uses a string of section names to identify where you are. For example, in the NetLingo Reciprocal Link Directory, if you go click on "Business Services" the link menu near the top of the page says: Home > Reciprocal Links Menu > Business Services. Likened to the practice of leaving breadcrumbs behind you when hiking a new trail or finding your way in the wilderness, these top navigation links are also known as "breadcrumbs" because you can find your way back to where you started by following them in reverse order. This expression is also used as a verb, as in "we can breadcrumb this section so we don't have to pile up content in the left navigation bar."

Taken from netlingo.com

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Employee Spotlight



Cathi McNeese

Administrative Assistant

They call me 'Director of First Impressions' but I'm actually the Administrative Assistant to the President and CEO, Mr. Richard Cummins. I handle all tasks he hands over to me on top of most HR functions for ISOCNET. I also help out in other departments when they need me.

My first loves are my son, Ethan, my daughter, Tara, and my husband, Tom. I enjoy spending time with family and friends. But don't let the 'mom' image fool ya! Before we started our family, you could find Tom and I taking monthly trips with C.O.R.E, a local Jeep Club. In fact, I was the first to roll my husband's '79 CJ7. In my free time, I also enjoy dancing, playing tennis, camping and fishing.

Did You Know...



ISOCNET has been selected as a Finalist for the Better Business Bureau's 'Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics' in 2004, 2006 and again in 2007!

Stay tuned for the final results...