

## The GSH8TW, an 8 ports gigabit switch.

### Introduction

now a days a lot of motherboards have gigabit onboard, but what can you do with it if you still have that rusty old 10/100 switch? Just get yourself a brand new 8 ports gigabit switch like the GSH8TW from Ovislink. This is not an ordinary switch, because this model is web managed. This means you can control the switch over the internet or over your own network. This allows you to disable other user from the network while you're still working with the network. But all the details are for later. Let's first try to get the switch up and running.



## The Package

The switch arrived here in a big brown box with on the inside a big retail box. When I opened up the retail box I found the switch, a CD and a little brown box. The CD contains a manual and inside the brown box we found a power cord, 19" rack mount brackets with the needed screws and 4 rubber feet. The power cord is the same as the one you need to power up your pc. This makes installation of the switch a lot easier because you don't have to work away the power adapter.



## Installing the switch

Installing the switch is very easy, all you've got to do is connect a pc to the configuration port (a 10/100 port labeled : cfg port). Then you've got to login on the switch. The IP, username and password are labeled on the back. This model has IP "192.168.1.200" username "admin" and password "123". Once you've configured your switch there's no need to use the configuration port, or if you want to keep changing the settings you can choose between connecting the pc directly to the configuration port, or by just linking the port to one of the 8 Gb ports so everyone with the right password can login.



## Testing

For testing the speed we used Sisoft S.A.N.D.R.A. 2004 and we ran the benchmark between two systems.

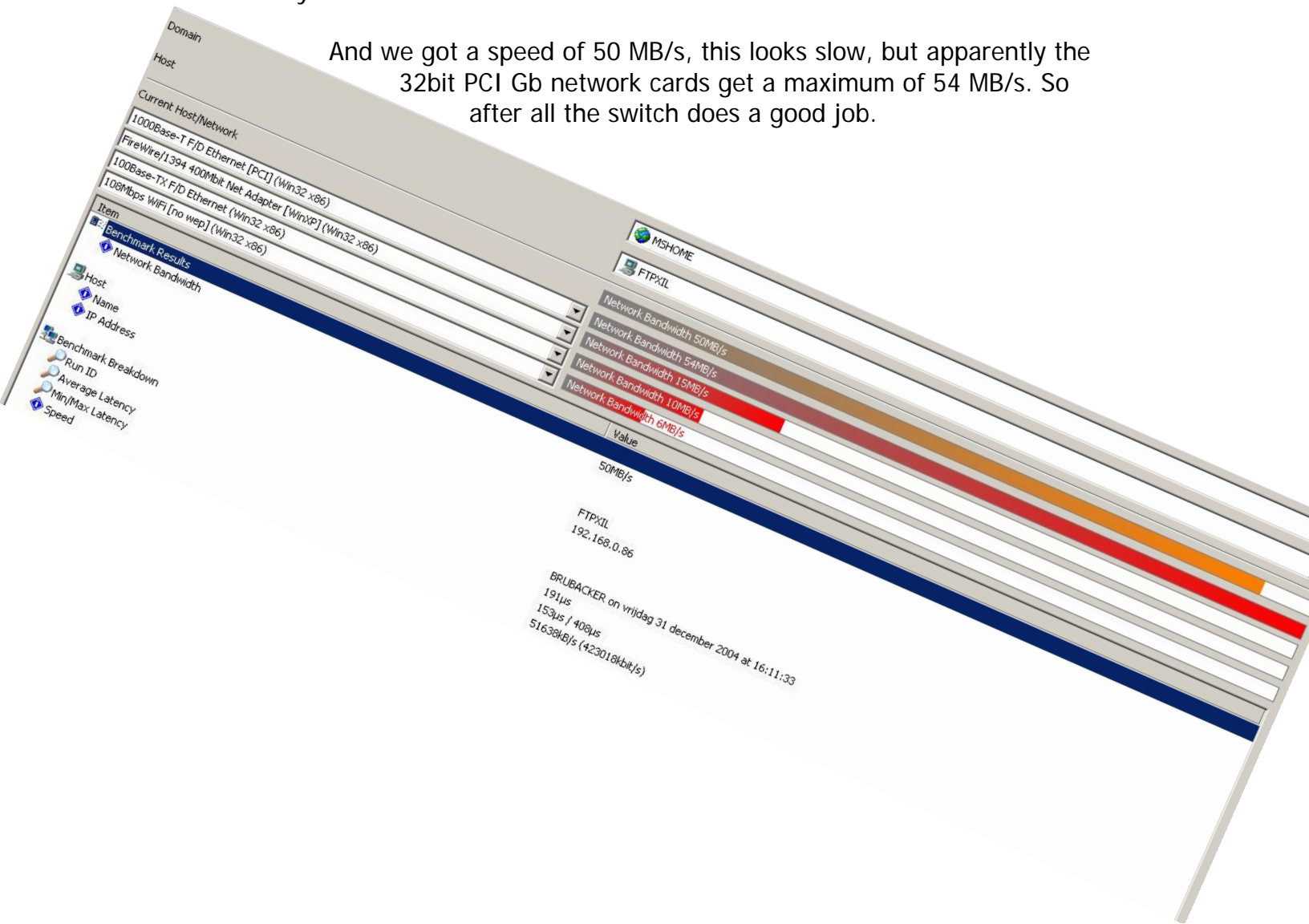
The first system:

- Intel P4 3.0 Ghz 800 FSB
- DFI LAN-party pro 875 with intel Gb LAN onboard
- Corsair 1Gb TwinX Matched PC3200 RAM
- Sapphire Radeon 9600 XT 256 Mb RAM
- WD Raptor 74 Gb
- WD 200 Gb SATA HDD
- Plextor PX-116A

And the other system:

- Intel P4 3.0 Ghz 800 FSB
- Matsonic MS 9388E
- Corsair 1Gb TwinX Matched PC3200 RAM
- WD caviar 10 Gb
- LANready 32bit PCI Gb LAN

And we got a speed of 50 MB/s, this looks slow, but apparently the 32bit PCI Gb network cards get a maximum of 54 MB/s. So after all the switch does a good job.



### Conclusion

The switch does it work very well and would be perfect for home, office or small business use. Normal users won't need a Layer2 Gigabit switch, but when you're using several pc's and you've got your own file server and home server that support Gigabit Ethernet this option becomes very interesting. And when you want to attach this switch to an other one you can theoretical use all of the ports as uplink. Because the new MDI/MDIX is integrated in this switch you won't even need a crossed cable to do that.

### PRO's

- Heavy duty
- Web manageable
- Fast
- 19" rackmountable / desk mountable
- Built in power adapter

### CON's

- None !

This switch deserves a 10 / 10!

We would like to thank Ovislink ( <http://www.ovislink.be> ) for sending us the switch.

