

Introduction

Since wireless is very popular today we thought we should take a look at how far you can go without losing your connection every 5 seconds. A lot of access points and wireless cards will just go up to 100 meters as said in there advertisement, but when testing it you'll soon find out that it won't be that good. When using wireless in your house or office you've got a lot of interference and signal loss even at a short distance. For example, we can't get a stable connection on our Belkin access point that is just 20 meters away from us. So what can you do about it? I've read stuff about small deflectors to put on your wireless antennas but then you signal gets bundled and you'll lose the advantage of the 360° coverage. So why not strengthen your wireless antenna? Antennas are no longer long pieces of metal. If you would use a long piece of metal you wouldn't get any signal at al because everything depends on the frequency of your signal. When using 802.11b/g you're saturating the cramped 2.4Ghz band while 802.11a uses the 5Ghz band. So then the only option left is buying an overpowered outdoor antenna to bundle your signal in one direction. Or is there an other option?



The stuff

Of course there is an other option. You can get amplified antenna's that will amplify your signal without the need of a large pole to put the antenna on. But when a amplified antenna is not enough, you can also get an amplifier with a very high output and a very powerful antenna. This is just for indoor use so it is not as large as his outdoor brothers and is easier to install indoor. How does it work? Well it you just screw it to your SMA jacket (the stock screw jacket used for WiFi antenna's) and you can work with it. So basically if you have a wireless network card or an access point with a SMA jacket you're possible to use it. How would it perform if you would us a combination of these two? An amplified antenna on your desktop and the amplifier on your access point? To do so we've got an basic access point from Ovislink that supports 802.11b/g/a and has a SMA connector called the WLA-5000AP, they also provided us the amplified antenna called the WAI-080 and the amplifier which would increase our range with 8X the normal coverage this bundle of amplifier and antenna is called the WPA-2400IG. The boxes arrived here in perfect condition and when opening it we found everything we needed.

But what does one need to install these antenna's when all you need to do is screw in the amplifiers SMA plug and plug-in the power brick? It really is as easy as it sounds. So, really everybody can install it.





Trying it out

So we installed everything at our office and we took our pc with us on the road. First we tried it with our laptop with a stock wireless network card and then we took our desktop to check the range when using the amplified antenna. Using the desktop on location was limited to a few buildings further because otherwise we wouldn't have a power outlet to connect our desktop to. In the office we had a lot of interference. Our previous Belkin access point didn't allow us to go outside and go on the internet. The connection was just not stable enough. Put once we configured the WLA-5000AP from Ovislink and we connected the amplifier we could go not just outside, but we could go to our neighbors a few houses further and still have a good and stable signal! I was really amazed with the power of the little amplifier together with this oversized antenna.



Conclusion

As you can guess we're really amazed of what a huge improvement you can acquire just by screwing in this amplifier. And even when adding the normal amplified antenna we managed to increase our coverage by almost 100 meters. But once we added the larger amplified antenna we managed to extend our wireless range with 150m! So you can be pretty sure you're buying the right stuff when you're getting this amplifier.

This combination is an excellent kit that deserves a 10/10!
We would like to thank Ovislink (<http://www.ovislink.be>) for sending us the outstanding kit.

