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Linksys WRT54G

Linksys WRT54G Wireless-G Router User Manual

Model: WRT54G

1. Introduction

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the installation, configuration, and operation of your Linksys WRT54G Wireless-G Router. The WRT54G is designed to provide high-speed wireless connectivity and network sharing capabilities for your home or small office.

The Linksys WRT54G is an all-in-one device functioning as an Internet sharing router, a 4-port switch, and a Wireless-G (802.11g) access point. It enables sharing a single Internet connection and other network resources with both Ethernet wired and Wireless-G clients. It supports wireless data rates up to 54 Mbps, which is up to five times faster than the 802.11b standard, while maintaining interoperability with existing 802.11b clients at 11 Mbps.

2. Package Contents

Verify that your package contains the following items:

- Linksys WRT54G Wireless-G Router
- Power Adapter
- Ethernet Network Cable
- Quick Installation Guide (or similar documentation)
- Resource CD (may contain drivers and additional software)

Note: Contents may vary slightly depending on the region or specific product version.

3. Product Overview

The Linksys WRT54G router features a compact design with indicators for network status and connectivity ports for various devices.

3.1 Front Panel



Image: Front view of the Linksys WRT54G Wireless-G Router, showing the Linksys logo, status indicator lights for Power, DMZ, USB (if applicable), WLAN, and four Ethernet ports, along with the Wireless-G and Ethernet labels.

The front panel displays various LED indicators that provide information about the router's status and network activity. These include indicators for Power, DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), USB (if present on the model), Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) activity, and individual indicators for each of the four Ethernet ports.

3.2 Rear Panel



Image: Rear view of the Linksys WRT54G Wireless-G Router, showing the Reset button, Internet (WAN) port, four numbered Ethernet (LAN) ports, and the Power input jack. Two detachable antennas are also visible.

The rear panel houses all the physical connection ports. These typically include:

- **Reset Button:** Used to restore factory default settings.
- **Internet Port (WAN):** Connects to your modem (DSL or Cable).
- **Ethernet Ports (LAN 1-4):** Connects to wired computers or other network devices.
- **Power Input:** Connects to the included power adapter.
- **Antenna Connectors:** For attaching the two external antennas.

4. Setup and Installation

Follow these steps to set up your Linksys WRT54G Wireless-G Router:

1. **Position the Router:** Place the router in a central location to maximize wireless coverage. Avoid placing it near large metal objects or appliances that may cause interference.
2. **Connect the Antennas:** Screw the two included antennas onto the connectors at the rear of the router.
3. **Connect to Modem:** Disconnect your computer from your modem. Connect one end of the included Ethernet cable to the Internet (WAN) port on the router and the other end to your modem's Ethernet port.
4. **Connect to Computer (Optional for initial setup):**For initial configuration, connect one end of another Ethernet cable to any of the numbered Ethernet (LAN) ports on the router and the other end to your computer's Ethernet port.
5. **Power On:** Connect the power adapter to the router's power input and then plug it into an electrical outlet. The Power LED on the front panel should illuminate.
6. **Power Cycle Modem:** Power off your modem, wait for 30 seconds, then power it back on. Wait for the modem to fully initialize (usually indicated by stable status lights).
7. **Access Setup Page:** Open a web browser on your connected computer. In the address bar, type the router's

default IP address (commonly 192.168.1.1) and press Enter.

8. **Login:** When prompted, enter the default username (usually admin) and password (usually admin or blank). Refer to the router's label for exact default credentials.
9. **Initial Configuration:** Follow the on-screen instructions to configure your Internet connection type (e.g., DHCP, Static IP, PPPoE) and set up your wireless network name (SSID) and security password.

It is highly recommended to change the default administrator password for security purposes.

5. Operation

Once the router is set up, you can manage its functions through the web-based interface. This section covers basic operational aspects.

5.1 Wireless Network Configuration

To configure your wireless network, log into the router's web interface:

- **Wireless Network Name (SSID):** Change the default SSID to a unique name for your network.
- **Wireless Security:** Enable wireless security to protect your network from unauthorized access. The WRT54G supports advanced wireless security with 128-bit WEP encryption. It is recommended to use WPA/WPA2 if available through firmware updates for stronger security.
- **Channel Selection:** If you experience interference or poor signal, try changing the wireless channel (e.g., 1, 6, or 11) in the wireless settings.
- **Wireless Mode:** The router operates in Wireless-G (802.11g) mode and is interoperable with 802.11b clients.

5.2 Network Security Features

The WRT54G includes several security features:

- **NAT Technology:** Network Address Translation (NAT) helps protect your internal network from direct exposure to the Internet.
- **Firewall:** The router includes a basic firewall to filter unwanted traffic.
- **MAC Address Filtering:** Allows you to specify which devices can connect to your wireless network based on their unique MAC addresses.
- **IP Address Filtering:** Can be used to block or allow specific IP addresses from accessing your network or the Internet.
- **VPN Pass-through:** Supports Virtual Private Network (VPN) pass-through for secure remote access.

5.3 DHCP Server

The router functions as a DHCP server, automatically assigning IP addresses to devices connected to your network, simplifying network setup for new devices.

6. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and security of your router.

- **Firmware Updates:** Periodically check the Linksys support website for firmware updates. Firmware updates can improve performance, add new features, and address security vulnerabilities. Follow the instructions provided by Linksys carefully when performing updates.
- **Regular Reboots:** Occasionally rebooting the router (power cycling) can resolve minor performance issues and refresh network connections.
- **Physical Cleaning:** Keep the router free from dust and obstructions to ensure proper ventilation. Use a soft, dry

cloth for cleaning.

- **Backup Configuration:** It is advisable to back up your router's configuration settings before performing major changes or firmware updates.

7. Troubleshooting

This section provides solutions to common issues you might encounter.

7.1 No Internet Connection

- **Check Cables:** Ensure all Ethernet cables are securely connected to the correct ports (WAN to modem, LAN to computer).
- **Power Cycle:** Power cycle your modem, then the router, then your computer.
- **Modem Status:** Verify that your modem is receiving an Internet signal (check its indicator lights).
- **Router Configuration:** Log into the router's web interface and verify that your Internet connection settings (e.g., PPPoE username/password) are correct.

7.2 Cannot Connect to Wireless Network

- **SSID Broadcast:** Ensure the router is broadcasting its SSID.
- **Wireless Password:** Double-check that you are entering the correct wireless security key (password).
- **Signal Strength:** Move closer to the router to improve signal strength.
- **Wireless Adapter:** Ensure your computer's wireless adapter is enabled and functioning correctly.

7.3 Slow Wireless Speed

- **Interference:** Change the wireless channel in the router's settings to avoid interference from other devices or networks.
- **Distance/Obstacles:** Reduce the distance between your device and the router, and minimize physical obstructions.
- **Mixed Mode:** If you have 802.11b devices, they will slow down the entire Wireless-G network. Consider upgrading older devices if possible.

For more detailed troubleshooting, refer to the official Linksys support website or the full user manual PDF: Linksys WRT54G User Manual (PDF).

8. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Name	WRT54G
Brand	Linksys
Wireless Standard	802.11g (compatible with 802.11b)
Wireless Data Rates	Up to 54 Mbps
Frequency Band	Single-Band (2.4 GHz)
Connectivity Technology	Wireless, Wired
Ethernet Ports	4 x 10/100 Mbps LAN, 1 x 10/100 Mbps WAN

Security Features	128-bit WEP encryption, MAC/IP address filtering, NAT, Firewall, VPN Pass-through
Special Features	Access Point Mode, WPS (if applicable to specific model version)
Product Dimensions	3.54 x 2.75 x 4.33 inches
Item Weight	11.2 ounces (0.7 Pounds)
Compatible Devices	Personal Computer
Recommended Uses	Security, Home/Small Office Networking

9. Warranty and Support

For information regarding the product warranty, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Linksys website. Linksys provides technical support and resources for their products.
You can find additional support, FAQs, and the latest firmware updates on the official Linksys support portal. For a detailed user guide, please download the PDF manual: Linksys WRT54G User Manual (PDF).

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