



AirConnect® 11 Mbps Wireless LAN Access Point Quick Start Guide

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Quick Start Guide

This guide will help an experienced network installer to set up and install an access point with a generic configuration for a wireless extension to a basic network.

Before installation, you will have already determined a location for the access point.



If you plan to install the access point in a hard-to-reach location, be sure to configure the device first.

The generic configuration described here uses the AirConnect® access point power supply to power the access point. If the access point in your configuration is powered by the PowerBASE-T, refer to “Installing the PowerBASE-T” on page 5 of this quick start guide for additional information.

For special network requirements and more complex configuration options, refer to the *Access Point User Guide*. See “Installing the Documentation” on page 5 of this quick start guide for information on setting up the online documentation.

For configuring the access point, you will need the following items from the access point kit:

- Access point
- Power supply
- Power cord for the power supply
- PowerBASE-T module
- Null modem cable (serial interface)

You also need access to a computer running a terminal emulator such as HyperTerminal. The null modem cable will provide the link between the computer and the access point that will let you configure the access point.

Locate the Access Point Ports

The access point ports are located on the back of the unit, as shown in Figure 1.

- Serial port ① for connecting the null modem cable.
- Power supply connector ②.
- Ethernet port ③ for connecting an Ethernet cable from the access point to your Ethernet network.

Connect the Power

Connect power to the access point as shown in Figure 2.

- 1 **Connect the power adapter cable to the power supply.**
- 2 **Connect the power adapter cable from the power supply to the access point.**
- 3 **Connect the power cord to the power supply.**
- 4 **Plug the power cord into a power outlet.**

Connect the Null Modem Cable

Connect the null modem cable to the serial ports on both the access point and your PC as shown in Figure 3.

Start Your Communications Application

Start the communications application on the PC. You can use almost any modem software that has a terminal emulation mode. This includes terminal emulation programs included with your operating system, such as HyperTerminal.

The *Installation* CD includes a script that automatically starts and configures HyperTerminal for communicating with the access point through the serial interface. You may run the script from the Setup program or directly from the Start menu. To run the script from the Setup program on the CD:

- 1 **Select *WLAN Utilities* from the Main menu.**
- 2 **Select *Serial Connection*.**

To run the script from the Start menu:

- 1 **Open Start/Run**
- 2 **Enter D:\Admin\AP\Hypert.ht, where D:\ is the device designation for your CD-ROM drive.**
- 3 **HyperTerminal starts up with a blank window. Press Enter to start your session. If there is no response, there may be a problem with the connections.**
- 4 **Press Esc to display the Main menu.**

Set Up Your Communications Application

If you do not use the HyperTerminal script, you must set up your communications application for communicating with the access point. Specify or create a COM port for the serial connection to the access point.

Use the following port parameters:

Parameter	Setting	Parameter	Setting
Emulation	ANSI	Stop bits	1
Baud rate	19200 bps	Parity	none
Data bits	8	Flow control	none

Once the port is set, press Enter to start your session. If there is no response, there may be a problem with the connections.

When a connection has been established, press Esc to refresh the screen and begin your administrative session.



In Windows 2000, the F1 key will not work correctly to save configuration settings. To save settings, tab to the F1 key, then press Enter. Answer yes when prompted to save changes.

To enable the F1 key to work correctly in Windows 2000, you should upgrade your Hyperterminal application to Hyperterminal Private Edition. This software is available at <http://www.hilgraeve.com/htpel/index.html>.

Configure the Access Point

If your terminal program is running when you power on the access point, the administration program will display the Main menu.

If you start your terminal program after the access point is powered up, you will see a blank screen. Press Esc to display the Main menu or press Enter to display the system summary.

1 From the Main menu, choose *AP Installation*.

2 When prompted, type the administrative password.

The default password is *comcomcom* (you can change this password during this administrative session).

3 Assign the access point either a static or a dynamic IP address.

If you are not using DHCP, enter the IP address and be sure to disable DHCP before leaving this screen.

If you are using DHCP, you do not need to supply an IP address.

4 Assign the default gateway (if you are not using DHCP).

5 Assign the subnet mask (if you are not using DHCP).

6 For the Wireless LAN Service Area, assign the name for the access point.

Each access point is identified on the network by its Wireless LAN Service Area name. If a network of two or more APs is being set up (to allow roaming, for example), all of the APs in the network should have the same Wireless LAN Service name.

Note that in the Wireless LAN Service Area name, case, spacing, punctuation, and even nonprinting characters are all significant. The

PC Card in the user's computer must be assigned to a Wireless LAN Service Area name that exactly matches the name given here.

- 7 For Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows NT, and Windows Me, press F1, then select Yes to save the settings. For Windows 2000, tab down to the F1 key, then press the Enter key.**

- Selecting *yes* saves the changes and returns you to the Main menu.
- Selecting *no* ignores the changes and returns you to the current menu.



To enable the F1 key to work correctly in Windows 2000, you should upgrade your Hyperterminal application to Hyperterminal Private Edition. This software is available at <http://www.hilgraeve.com/htpel/index.html>.

- 8 Press Esc to return to the Main menu.**

- 9 Perform this step if you want to enable encryption. Otherwise, skip to step 11.**

- From the Main menu, select *RF Configuration*.
- In the RF Configuration menu, set *.WEP Encryption* to *Enabled*.
- Set *.WEP Algorithm* to *40 bit* or *128 bit (USA)* or *40 bit (Non-USA)*. Use the space bar to toggle between selections.
- Change or enter Shared Key values (refer to the *Access Point User Guide* for details on setting Shared Key values for encryption).
- Save your selection.

- 10 If you are installing the access point in a network that includes earlier versions of AirConnect (versions 1.0 and 1.5), you must disable the short RF preamble (default is enabled). To disable short RF preamble:**

- From the Hyperterminal Main menu, select *RF Configuration*.
- Press the Tab key to highlight *.Short RF Preamble Enabled*.
- Press the space bar to change the selection to *Disabled*.
- Press *F1* to save the setting.

- 11 Reset the access point so that your new settings take effect.**




- From the Main menu, choose *Special Functions*.
- In the Special Functions menu, select *Reset AP* and press *Enter*.
- Confirm your selection by answering *yes* when prompted.

The access point will reboot and return you to the Main menu.

Install and Connect the Access Point

Once configured, you can install the access point and connect an Ethernet cable from the Ethernet port to your network hub or switch. See the *Access Point User Guide* if you need more information on connecting the access point to your network.

Access Point LEDs

LED	Off	On	Blinking
Power 	No power	Power on	During boot sequence
LAN 	No power No network connection	Link to hub, but no network traffic	LAN traffic is detected. The heavier the traffic, the faster the blinking.
WLAN 	No power No radio signal	No associated wireless clients	Radio traffic is detected. The heavier the traffic, the faster the blinking.

When the access point is first powered on, all three LEDs light up. The LED display then counts down from right to left with three LEDs to two, then from two LEDs to one.

Installing the Documentation

- 1 Put the *Installation* CD in the CD-ROM drive. The Setup program will start automatically.

If the Setup program does not start, use Start/Run to run the SETUP.EXE program from CD-ROM drive.

- 2 Select *Documentation*.

You can view the manuals from the CD.

- 3 To install the manuals on your hard disk, select *Install User Documentation*. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.

- 4 Exit the setup program.

You can open the manuals from the AirConnect program group.

Installing the PowerBASE-T

The PowerBASE-T module supplies simultaneous power and data to the access point over a single Category 5 eight-wire cable. As an alternative to the standard power supply, it can be used to power the access point in locations where a standard outlet is not convenient. Figure 4 shows the PowerBASE-T and its three connectors:

- Power supply connector ①.
- Ethernet port ② that connects an Ethernet cable to your network.
- Ethernet port ③ that connects a Category 5 eight-wire Ethernet cable from the PowerBASE-T module to your access point



CAUTION: Do not connect a crossover cable between the PowerBASE-T and the access point. Doing so may permanently damage the hardware.

To connect the PowerBASE-T module to the access point:

- 1 **Connect the power adapter cable to the power supply.**
- 2 **Connect the power adapter cable from the power supply to the PowerBASE-T module. See ① in Figure 5.**
- 3 **Connect the power cord to the power supply.**
- 4 **Plug the power cord into a power outlet.**

When the PowerBASE-T module receives power, the green LED on top lights up.

- 5 **Connect an Ethernet cable from the Ethernet port to your network hub or switch. See ② in Figure 5.**
- 6 **Connect a Category 5 eight-wire Ethernet cable from the PowerBASE-T module to the access point. See ③ in Figure 5.**

When it receives power over the Ethernet cable, the access point will start its boot sequence and its LED will light.

Product Registration and Support

To register this product with 3Com, go to the following Web site:

<http://www.3com.com/productreg/index.html>

For support information and pointers to the latest drivers and utilities available for the AirConnect access point, go to the following Web site:

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3Com® AirConnect® Access Point

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