



OfficeConnect®

11Mbps Wireless Access Point User Guide

3CRWE41196



The Standard for
Wireless Fidelity.

<http://www.3com.com/>

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Reducing the waste generated by all operations. Ensuring that all waste conforms to recognized environmental standards. Maximizing the recyclable and reusable content of all products.

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Ensuring that all products are labelled according to recognized environmental standards.

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REGULATORY NOTICES FOR THE 11MBPS WIRELESS ACCESS POINT

Federal Communication Commission Interference Statement

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

FCC Caution: Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

FCC Radiation Exposure Statement:

This equipment complies with FCC radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This equipment should be installed and operated with minimum distance 20cm between the radiator & your body.

This transmitter must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide describes how to install and configure the OfficeConnect 11Mbps Wireless Access Point (3CRWE41196).

This guide is intended for use by those responsible for installing and setting up network equipment; consequently, it assumes a basic working knowledge of LANs (Local Area Networks).



If a release note is shipped with the OfficeConnect 11Mbps Wireless Access Point and contains information that differs from the information in this guide, follow the information in the release note.

Most user guides and release notes are available in Adobe Acrobat Reader Portable Document Format (PDF) on the 3Com World Wide Web site:

<http://www.3com.com>

Naming Convention

Throughout this guide, the OfficeConnect 11Mbps Wireless Access Point is referred to as the "Access Point".

Category 3 and Category 5 Twisted Pair Cables are referred to as Twisted Pair Cables throughout this guide.

The PC used to configure the Access Point is referred to as the "admin computer". 3Com recommends that during the initial configuration that this is connected to the same switch or hub as the Access Point.

Conventions

[Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#) list conventions that are used throughout this guide.

Table 1 Notice Icons

Icon	Notice Type	Description
	Information note	Information that describes important features or instructions.
	Caution	Information that alerts you to potential loss of data or potential damage to an application, system, or device.
	Warning	Information that alerts you to potential personal injury.

Table 2 Text Conventions

Convention	Description
The words "enter" and "type"	When you see the word "enter" in this guide, you must type something, and then press Return or Enter. Do not press Return or Enter when an instruction simply says "type."
Keyboard key names	If you must press two or more keys simultaneously, the key names are linked with a plus sign (+). Example: Press Ctrl+Alt+Del
Words in <i>italics</i>	Italics are used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Emphasize a point. ■ Denote a new term at the place where it is defined in the text. ■ Identify menu names, menu commands, and software button names. Examples: From the <i>Help</i> menu, select <i>Contents</i>. Click <i>OK</i>.

Feedback about this User Guide

Your suggestions are very important to us. They will help make our documentation more useful to you. Please e-mail comments about this document to 3Com at:

pddtechpubs_comments@3com.com

Please include the following information when commenting:

- Document title
- Document part number (on the title page)
- Page number (if appropriate)

Example:

- OfficeConnect 11Mbps Wireless Access Point User Guide
- Part Number DUA4119-6AAA01
- Page 24



Do not use this e-mail address for technical support questions. For information about contacting Technical Support, please refer to the Support and Safety Information sheet.

Related Documentation

In addition to this guide, each Access Point document set includes one Installation Guide. This guide contains the instructions you need to install and configure your Access Point.

Product Registration

You can now register your Access Point on the 3Com web site and receive up-to-date information on your product:

<http://support.3com.com/registration/frontpg.pl>

1

INTRODUCING THE ACCESS POINT

Welcome to the world of networking with 3Com®. In the modern business environment, communication and sharing information is crucial. Computer networks have proved to be one of the fastest modes of communication but, until recently, only large businesses could afford the networking advantage. The OfficeConnect® product range from 3Com has changed all this, bringing networks to the small office.

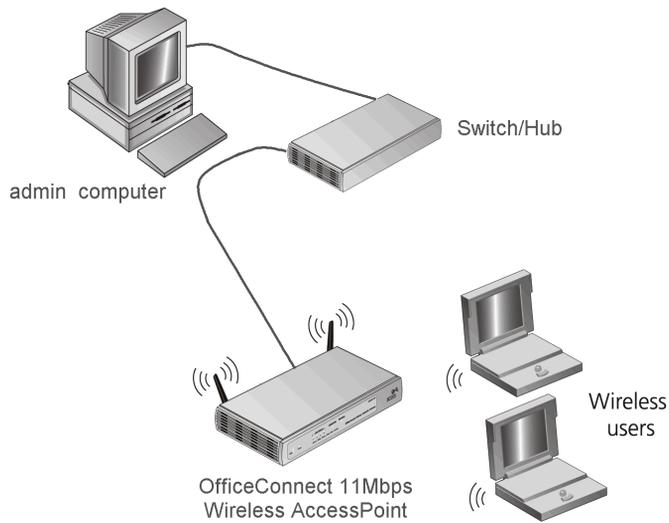
The products that compose the OfficeConnect range give you, the small office user, the same power, flexibility, and protection that has been available only to large corporations. Now, you can harness the benefits of wireless networking.

OfficeConnect 11Mbps Wireless Access Point

The OfficeConnect 11Mbps Wireless Access Point is designed to provide a cost-effective means of connecting wired and wireless networks.

A single Access Point makes the Internet, e-mail and network resources, such as printers, available to dozens of wireless clients. Because the Access Point is a WI-FI certified device, you can be sure it will work reliably with certified equipment from other manufacturers.

Figure 1 Example Network



Access Point Advantages

The advantages of the Access Point include:

- Cross-platform operation for compatibility with Windows, Unix and Macintosh computers
- Easy-to-use, Web-based setup and configuration
- Provides centralization of all network address settings (DHCP)
- Shares network resources between both wired and wireless computers

Package Contents

The Access Point kit includes the following items:

- One OfficeConnect 11Mbps Wireless Access Point
- One power adapter for use with the Access Point
- Four rubber feet
- One Ethernet cable
- One CD-ROM containing the Access Point Discovery program and this User Guide
- Installation Guide
- One Support and Safety Information Sheet
- One Warranty Flyer

If any of these items are missing or damaged, please contact your retailer.

Minimum System and Component Requirements

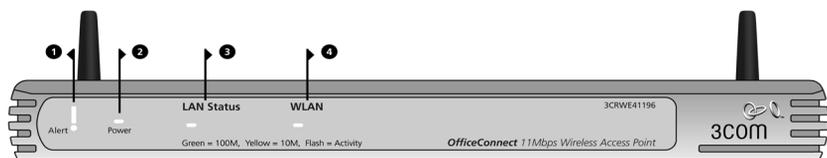
Your Access Point requires that the computer(s) and components in your network be configured with at least the following:

- A computer with an operating system that supports TCP/IP networking protocols (for example Windows 95/98/NT/Me/2000/XP, Unix, Mac OS 8.5 or higher).
- An Ethernet 10Mbps or 10/100 Mbps or 10/100/1000 Mbps NIC.
- An 802.11b wireless NIC.
- A Web browser program that supports JavaScript, such as Netscape 4.0 or higher or Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher.

Front Panel

The front panel of the Access Point contains a series of indicator lights (LEDs) that help describe the state of various networking and connection operations.

Figure 2 Access Point - Front Panel



1 Alert LED

Orange

Indicates a number of different conditions, as described below.

Off - The Access Point is operating normally.

Flashing quickly - Indicates one of the following conditions:

- The Access Point has just been started up and is running a self-test routine, or
- The administrator has invoked the *Reset to Factory Defaults* command, or
- The system software is in the process of being upgraded

In each of these cases, wait until the Access Point has completed the current operation and the alert LED is Off.

Flashing slowly - The Access Point has completed the *Reset to Factory Defaults* process, and is waiting for you to release the reset button. The Access Point will then enter the start-up sequence and resume normal operation.



If you have used the reset button to reset the unit to Factory Defaults, follow steps 5 to 6 in [“Forgotten Password and Reset to Factory Defaults”](#) on page 54.

Continuously on - A fault has been detected with your Access Point during the start-up process. Refer to [Chapter 5 “Troubleshooting”](#).

2 Power LED

Green

Indicates that the Access Point is powered on.

3 LAN Status LED

Green (100Mbps link) / yellow (10Mbps link)

If the LED is on, the link between the port and the next piece of network equipment is OK. If the LED is flashing, the link is OK and data is being transmitted or received. If the LED is off, nothing is connected, the connected device is switched off, or there is a problem with the connection (refer to [Chapter 5 “Troubleshooting”](#)). The port will automatically adjust to the correct speed and duplex.

4 Wireless LAN (WLAN) Status LED

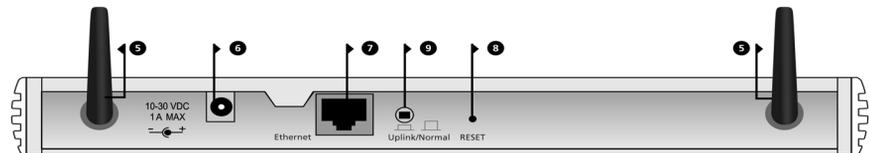
Yellow

If the LED is on it indicates that wireless networking is enabled. If the LED is flashing, data is being transmitted or received. If the LED is off, the Wireless LAN has been disabled in the Access Point, or there is a problem. Refer to [Chapter 5 “Troubleshooting”](#).

Rear Panel

The rear panel ([Figure 3](#)) of the Access Point contains one LAN port, a reset button, an MDI/X switch and a power adapter socket.

Figure 3 Access Point - Rear Panel



5 Wireless Antennae

The antennae on the product should be placed in a 'V' position when initially installed.



CAUTION: Do not force the antennae round further than 90 degrees in either direction.

6 Power Adapter Socket

Only use the power adapter supplied with this Access Point. Do not use any other adapter.

7 Ethernet Port

Use the supplied patch cable to connect the Access Point to the LAN. The port will automatically adjust to the correct speed and duplex.

8 Reset Button

This button allows you to reset the unit to factory defaults.

9 Uplink/Normal Switch

This switch affects the operation of the Ethernet Port. If you are connecting the Access Point to a Hub or a Switch, set the switch to Uplink (in). If you are connecting to a PC, set the switch to Normal (out).

2

HARDWARE INSTALLATION

Introduction

This chapter will guide you through a basic installation of the Access Point, including:

- Connecting the Access Point to your network.
- Setting up your computers for networking with the Access Point.

Safety Information



WARNING: Please read the [“Safety Information”](#) section in [Appendix D](#) before you start.



VORSICHT: Bitte lesen Sie den Abschnitt [“Wichtige Sicherheitshinweise”](#) sorgfältig durch, bevor Sie das Gerät einschalten.



AVERTISSEMENT: Veuillez lire attentivement la section [“Consignes importantes de sécurité”](#) avant de mettre en route.

Positioning the Access Point

You should place the Access Point in a location that:

- allows convenient connection to the computer or other ethernet device that will be connected to the LAN port on the rear panel.
- allows easy viewing of the front panel LED indicator lights, and access to the rear panel connectors, if necessary.
- is centrally located to the wireless computers that will connect to the Access Point. A suitable location might be on top of a high shelf or similar furniture to optimize wireless connections to computers in both horizontal and vertical directions, allowing wider coverage.

When positioning your Access Point, ensure:

- It is out of direct sunlight and away from sources of heat.
- Cabling is away from power lines, fluorescent lighting fixtures, and sources of electrical noise such as radios, transmitters and broadband amplifiers.
- Water or moisture cannot enter the case of the unit.
- Air flow around the unit and through the vents in the side of the case is not restricted. 3Com recommends you provide a minimum of 25 mm (1 in.) clearance.

Using the Rubber Feet

Use the four self-adhesive rubber feet to prevent your Access Point from moving around on your desk or when stacking with other flat top OfficeConnect units. Only stick the feet to the marked areas at each corner of the underside of your Access Point.

Wall Mounting

There are two slots on the underside of the Access Point that can be used for wall mounting.



When wall mounting the unit, ensure that it is within reach of the power outlet.

You will need two suitable screws to wall mount the unit. To do this:

- 1 Ensure that the wall you use is smooth, flat, dry and sturdy and make two screw holes which are 150 mm (5.9 in.) apart.
- 2 Fix the screws into the wall, leaving their heads 3 mm (0.12 in.) clear of the wall surface.
- 3 Remove any connections to the unit and locate it over the screw heads. When in line, gently push the unit on to the wall and move it downwards to secure.



When making connections, be careful not to push the unit up and off the wall.



CAUTION: *Only wall mount single units, do not wall mount stacked units.*

Powering Up the Access Point

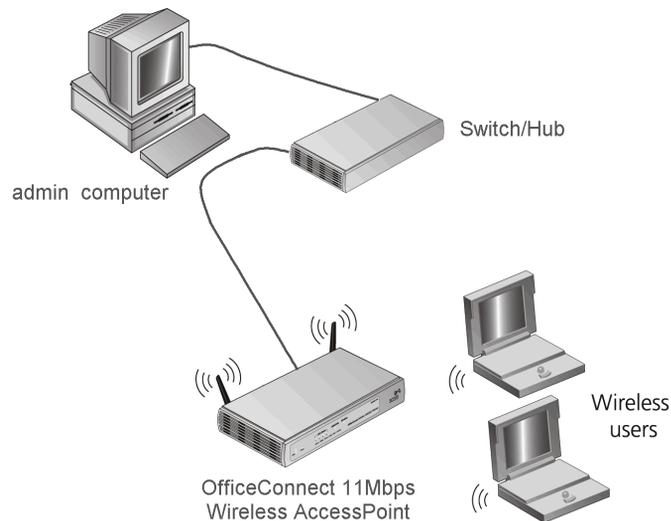
To power up the Access Point:

- 1 Plug the power adapter into the power adapter socket located on the back panel of the Access Point.
- 2 Plug the power adapter into a standard electrical wall socket.

Connecting the Access Point

The first step for installing your Access Point is to physically connect it to a switch or hub. See [Figure 4](#).

Figure 4 Connecting the Access Point



To use your Access Point to connect to the wireless LAN to the wired LAN:

- 1 Insert one end of the supplied Ethernet (RJ-45 Category 5) cable into the LAN port on the rear panel of the Access Point.
- 2 Insert the other end of the cable into the RJ-45 port on switch or hub. Check that the LAN status LED lights on the Access Point.

You have now completed the hardware installation of your Access Point. Next you need to set up your computers so that they connect to the Access Point.

