Our guide to using Homeplugs

Homeplugs are a great way to get your wired and wireless Internet working around your home or business, especially those difficult to reach corners. Homeplugs work by taking data (from a source such as your ADSL Router or a network Hub) and convert this into a signal that is carried around the mains electricity in your premises. So you need a minimum of two Homeplugs to make the technology work. One plug takes data from your Router and when plugged into a wall socket injects the signal into your ring main. You then use another Homeplug to 'extract' the data carried along the mains signal. The second (or third or fourth etc...) Homeplug can be either wired directly into your Computer (great if you use a desktop PC) or can be a wireless plug that extends the Broadband / network to an area in your premises that cannot be reached by say – your router.

The rules...

There are some rules you will need to follow to get the best out of your HomePlugs...

1. Generally speaking use HomePlugs from the same manufacturer to ensure they are using the same chipset, speed etc...

2. Older HomePlugs (those with 14Mbps and 85Mbps throughput) are not compatible with the latest standards. If you have any of these then they will need to be removed from the network

3. HomePlugs will not work if your premises has more than one Consumer Unit and you are trying to 'bridge' them. In this instance it would be better to use a wireless extender or physical cabling to extend your network

4. Never put a HomePlug into an extension socket board with surge protection and if possible not next to a plug/transformer that reduces voltage – such as your Router's mains plug. This will mess up the signal and you will have at best a poor network connection – or more likely none at all

5. Always buy plugs that support Quality of Service (QOS) – these prioritise multimedia traffic over other types of traffic on your network connection

6. There is a maximum number of HomePlugs that can be used on a network, while most systems support up to 8 plugs there are some that will only support 4. For most

implementations you would only require a couple of plugs so this may not need to be a consideration.

Specifications.

There are many specifications for HomePlugs, which come in many shapes, sizes and speeds. Some HomePlugs also act as wireless access points, allowing WiFi in difficult to reach parts of your premises.

1. Each of the HomePlug standards has a headline data speed associated with it. For instance, the HomePlug 200AV standard is associated with 200 megabits per second. It is important to understand that this number does not represent the data throughput between two devices. The data throughput rate between any pair of devices will be significantly less than the headline speed. There are a number of reasons for this discrepancy but you should understand that it is normal to represent networking equipment this way. 200AV devices are ideal for most home users. Things you need to consider when considering HomePlugs are the speed of your internet connection and the speeds required for the internal use of the HomePlugs, such as transferring of data from one computer to another and then make your decision as to which HomePlugs suit your needs the best

2. Purchasing your HomePlugs from us takes away all of the above pain as we will offer you free advice to ensure you get the best from this system.

Finally...

When purchasing Homeplugs it is important to ensure that you get the right plugs.

Always buy plugs that support Quality of Service (QOS) – these prioritise multimedia traffic over other types of traffic on your network connection.