

ASK Kurt

All your computer questions answered



What is Powerline networking?

A Powerline network is essentially a wired network with (mostly) hidden wires. Let's say that you have your broadband router in the hallway and a smart Samsung HD TV in the living room. Let's also say that this particular television isn't wireless-enabled, so the only way that you can enjoy catch-up TV on it is to trail an Ethernet cable from the router, down the hallway, and across the living room floor to the TV. You try to hide the cable under a large carpet. It doesn't work.

The Powerline solution is less visible – a 'no new wires' approach. You buy a basic kit, which comes with two Powerline adapters and two short Ethernet cables. You connect one of the Ethernet cables to your router and to the first of the adapters. Then you plug it into the nearest power socket. You click the second Ethernet cable into the back of the HD TV and into the second adapter. You plug the second adapter into the nearest power socket.

And that's it. The adapters auto-detect each other (no drivers, no lengthy configuration process) and auto-connect, enabling data packets to whizz from router to TV, travelling along the Ethernet cable, into the first adapter, across the electrical wiring in the walls, out into the second adapter and into the TV. You can also purchase a Wireless Powerline Kit which allows you to extend your wireless Internet to almost every area in your house. Powerline networking is a great solution for multi-storey villas and homes that have poor wireless reception. Algarve Computer Centre can help provide a variety of Internet and Powerline solutions for both your business or home.

Email your questions to Kurt: kurt@algarvecomputercentre.com

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