

# **HP MediaSmart Connect - Best Practices**

The HP MediaSmart Connect is a digital media receiver that transforms any HDTV into a digital experience. The HP MediaSmart Connect lets you enjoy your favorite photos, music, movies, and videos—stored on multiple PCs—in the comfort of your family room on your HDTV.



# Before you begin your set-up

Inside the HP MediaSmart Connect box you will find the HP MediaSmart Connect unit, a power adaptor, an HDMI cable, a universal remote, an Installation and User's Guide, a Set-up Poster, coupons for trying out Vongo and CinemaNow movie services,<sup>4</sup> and a software installation CD. To install and use all key features of the HP MediaSmart Connect you should also have:

- A High-definition TV with either component or HDMI inputs.<sup>2</sup>
- A PC running Microsoft Windows XP SP2 or later. You will need Windows Vista Home Ultimate or Premium<sup>1</sup> (with optional TV Tuner card) to use the Extender for Windows Media Center functionalities.<sup>5</sup>
- A router with broadband access.<sup>3</sup> If using wireless, for HDTV streaming we recommend using 802.11n<sup>6</sup> routers with dual 2.4 and 5 GHz radios. Unless you use your router in dedicated "n" mode, we don't recommend connecting BOTH your PC and the HP MediaSmart Connect to your router via wireless connection. We recommend connecting your PC to your router in wired mode.

Unlike other media receivers that require PCs running the Windows Media OS, the HP MediaSmart Connect supports all Digital Living Network Alliance (DLNA)-compliant media servers and can stream content from a variety of systems, including:

- PCs running Microsoft Windows XP (SP2) or later using Windows Media Player 11 (WMP11)
- Macintosh or Linux-based computers running a DLNA-compliant media server, such as TwonkyVision, or TVersity.
- Network-attached storage (NAS) devices, such as the HP Media Vault or HP MediaSmart Server that have an integrated UPnP media server.



## **Home Network Considerations**

Before you can start using your HP MediaSmart Connect you need to connect it to your home network. You can use either an Ethernet cable or the built in wireless antennas.

## Wired Network

Using a wired network provides better performance than wireless, because the attached devices connect directly to the network and are not subject to radio frequency (RF) interference. The HP MediaSmart Connect is equipped with a full-duplex 10/100 Mbps Ethernet (IEEE 802.3) module for wired connection to the home LAN.

#### Wireless Network

The HP MediaSmart Connect is also equipped with an IEEE 802.11n (draft 2.0) wireless module, which also supports the 802.11a/b/g standards.<sup>6</sup> For best wireless performance for the HP MediaSmart Connect, HP recommends use of a dual-band IEEE 802.11n Wi-Fi network.<sup>6</sup> This allows you to use the "n" radio for your HD streaming to the HP MediaSmart Connect and the "g/b" radio for your legacy devices in the home, like old notebook PCs or wireless printers. IEEE 802.11a or 802.11g is the second choice. IEEE 802.11b access points work well for audio and picture streaming, but are not recommended for video because of bandwidth limitations. The following Table lists a sample of recommended routers. Note that there are many single-radio (2.4 GHz) "pre-n" routers which will work quite well in dedicated "n" mode and in single-family homes; however, these routers are not really recommended when used in congested areas, like apartments. If you have an old "b/g" router, there is no need to throw it away. You can connect it in "bridge" mode to your single-radio "n" router and create a dual-radio wireless setup (the bridge mode set-up is required so that there is only one DHCP server in your home network).

Name	# of Radios	Bands	Comments
Linksys WRT600N	2	5GHz/2.4GHz	Simultaneous 2.5 and 5 GHz
Apple Airport	1	5GHz/2.4GHz	Can be used in either 2.5 or 5 GHz mode. Recommend using it in 5 GHz mode
D-Link DGL-4500	2	5GHz/2.4GHz	2.4 OR 5 GHz, 5 GHz recommended
Netgear WNDR3300	2	5GHz/2.4GHz	No "802.11n" on 2.4GHz. No 20MHz/40MHz bandwidth selector in the current firmware. 20MHz bandwidth is preferred with MediaSmart video.
SMC SMCWBR14	1	2.4 GHz	Not Recommended in apartments
Linksys WRVS4400N	1	2.4 GHz	Not Recommended in apartments
D-Link DIR-655	1	2.4 GHz	Not Recommended in apartments
Netgear WNR854T	1	2.4 GHz	Not Recommended in apartments
D-Link DIR-625	1	2.4GHz	Not Recommended in apartments

### Footnotes

# For more information:

To learn more about the MediaSmart Connect, visit:

www.hp.com/go/mediasmart for more information on MediaSmart products www.hp.com/support/mediasmart/faqs for frequently asked questions and answers www.hp.com/support/mediasmart for more help and "How to" documents



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Media streaming requires PC with Microsoft XP (SP2 or later) or DLNA-compliant media server. Home network is required and sold separately.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>EDTV or HDTV that supports 1080i or 720p is required. HD content required for HD performance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Internet use requires separately purchased Internet service. For wireless access, wireless access point may be required and not included.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Downloaded content may require additional fees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Extender for Windows Media Center functionality requires PC with Windows Vista Home or Premium or Ultimate. Accessing live TV functionality requires a PC with a TV tuner and live TV signal.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>The specifications of the 802.11n WLAN are draft 2.0 specifications and not final. If the final specifications differ from the draft specifications it may affect the ability of this device to communicate with other 802.11n WLAN devices.