Wireless Home Networking Simplified
Jim Doherty and Neil Anderson
354 pages
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Wireless Home Networking Simplified by Jim Doherty and Neil Anderson is a modern, concise, and accessible resource for home users. Doherty and Anderson provide in simple terms all the information you need to set up and configure your own wireless network. When considering the implementation of wireless networks, it's easy to get weighed down with excessive technical detail that, unless you're an expert, isn't really useful and leads to confusion. But this book maintains a balance between beginner topics and those for more advanced readers.

Doherty and Anderson discuss all the devices you could possibly need to build and maintain a wireless network, from network interface cards and routers to security systems such as wireless cameras. It focuses on Windows XP and Linksys products, but you'll also find it useful if you use other wireless product brands. (In my experience, D-Link products are easy to use.) Vibrant screenshots support the text and guide you, hands-on, through the steps of designing and implementing a wireless network: buying and installing equipment, sharing files and printers, and maintaining security. The book also covers wireless games. As you work your way through each chapter, you'll come across useful subheadings, such as "Where to go for more information." The book also includes an appendix that provides some extra information on topics such as MAC address filtering and lists of 802.11 standards.

The section on planning has clearly been researched in great depth to encompass the vast range of network layout options. The book provides detailed coverage of security issues, which is an important aspect of wireless networking. Throughout the stages of wireless network setup, security is at the forefront of each process. This encompasses encryption, firewalls, and MAC address locking, all of which the book covers with a high level of precision.

Doherty and Anderson devote three chapters to troubleshooting, which is vital when implementing a wireless network. Because this book concentrates on Linksys products, it doesn't cover the configuration problems that can occur with mismatched products. (I've found the "restore" function to be useful if all else fails!)

The book’s interesting finale discusses extending your wireless network into areas such as wireless gaming, home surveillance, and wireless hotspots and also covers exciting future possibilities.

More and more home users are choosing networking wireless solutions, and this book is an important guide to implementing and maintaining this technology. I rate the book an 8 out of 10 in terms of subject coverage and value for the money.
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- "Ultrawideband as an Industrial Wireless Solution," IEEE Pervasive Computing (http://doi.ieeecomputersociety.org/10.1109/MPRV.2006.89)

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