



## Wireless Networks

### Introduction

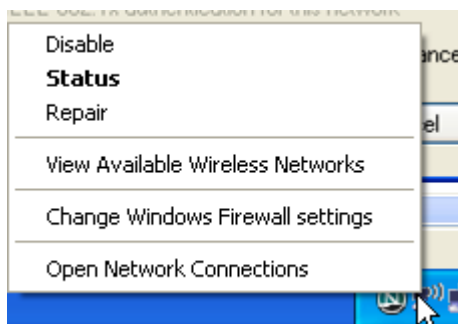
Wireless networks can be a real convenience. We can surf the Internet by the pool, check our email while having lunch, or simply move to another room if it gets too loud. But for all their convenience, wireless networks have some caveats the press doesn't tell you about. The biggest problem is reception. Wireless LANs operate in roughly the same frequency range as cell phones. Consequently, they are susceptible to the same coverage limitations. Wireless LAN's are greatly affected by the topography in which they operate. Concrete walls, steel studs, glass partitions can all limit the range of a wireless antenna. In addition, radio interference can hinder performance. Common culprits are microwave ovens, trucks (specifically their CB radios) and other wireless LANs.

Given the real world factors affecting wireless LANs, we users can expect some minor problems when using them. The most common nuisance is the dropout. It's akin to your cell phone dropout. Small dropouts are easily recovered from without our intervention. Larger dropouts require action from us to recover (think of a dropped cell call). The following document walks you through the process of re-connecting to your wireless LAN after a dropout.

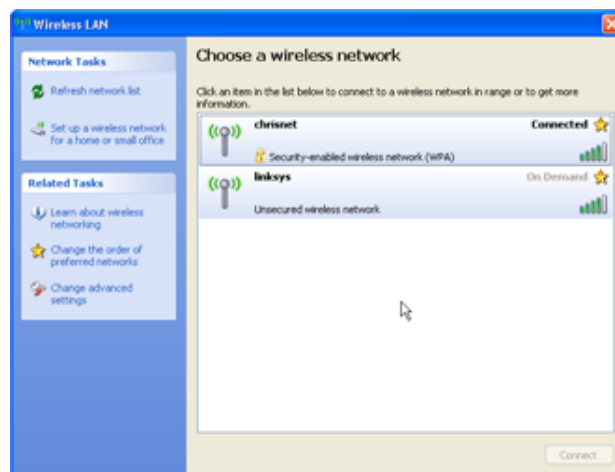
### Finding your Wireless LAN

In many locations there are multiple LANs operating. They usually belong to your neighbors. For security reasons, you must ensure that you are connected to your LAN and your neighbor's. Doing so is fairly straightforward.

- Right click on the wireless icon in the lower right corner. The following menu will appear:



- Select View Available Wireless Networks and the following window will appear:



- Select your network name and select connect.
- From this point forward, Windows will automatically search for your network when you power on your PC.

### Dropouts

Occasionally, the wireless LAN will drop out due to interference. When this occurs, the 'balloon' below pops up in the lower right corner with a message. This is normal. I see it on my network regularly. After a short time, it may reconnect.

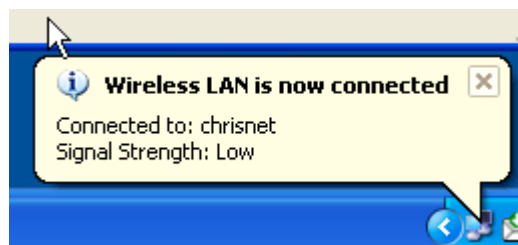


After a short time, it may reconnect. If it does you will see another balloon:

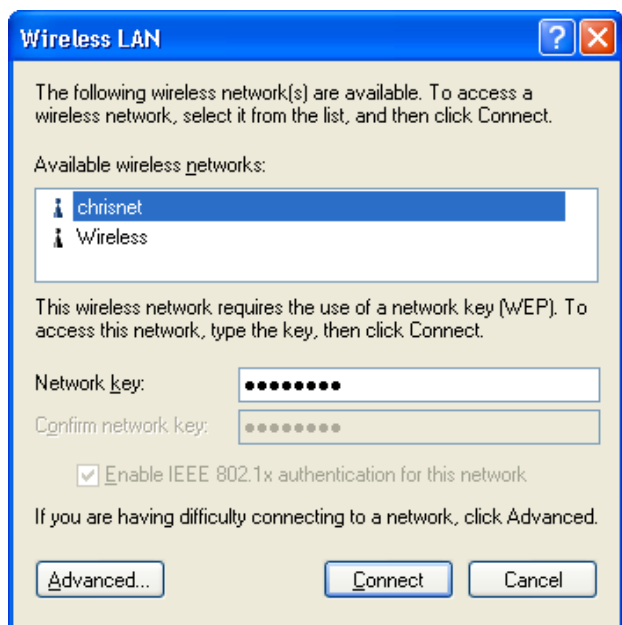


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Please contact [support@chrisgoane.com](mailto:support@chrisgoane.com) if you would like further training on Windows or the PC.



If there is more than one wireless network in your vicinity, you will see the following window:



At this point you must select your wireless network. If you have security implemented on your network, as you should, you may need to enter your Network Key, or password. Most of the time Windows XP remembers your password, so can simply press the Connect button.

A few seconds after connecting to your network, you will receive a final confirmation balloon:

