

Flashing LinkSys Wireless Routers

A brief overview
COLUG, Dec 28, 2008
Jim Wildman

What are we talking about

- Installing Linux distributions on LinkSYS wireless routers
- Done via updating the firmware or 'flashing' the firmware

Why?

- Geek factor!!!
- Linksys routers are
 - Low power
 - Fanless
 - Quiet
 - Small
 - Simple
- Replacing firmware with Linux makes them flexible

New features

- Full command line access
- Wireless power and antennae control
- Can be used as
 - Http, dns, dhcp, nfs, vpn, tftp server
 - Home firewall (of course)

Use cases

- Internal web server for references
- DNS/DHCP server
- VPN server
- Wake on lan coordination system
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Install tasks

- ID Hardware (ideally should be done before purchase)
- Get flash image
- Read install guide
- Reread the install guide
- Flash the router
- Login and configure
 - Root password
 - Remote management
 - Wireless power

Resources

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linksys_WRT54G_series
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DD-WRT>
- <http://dd-wrt.com/wiki/index.php/Installation>
- <http://www.wrtrouters.com/guides/upgradetolinux/>
- <http://www.bitsum.com/openwiking/owbase/ow.asp?WRT54G5%5FCFE>