



3Com Travel Router

Mobile hotspot options make this unique



Take the tiny 3Com Travel Router with you to create your own wireless hotspot wherever you go

3Com's Office Connect Wireless 54Mbit/sec 11G Travel Router may be small on the outside but it packs a lot inside, enabling it to be used as a wireless Internet gateway, access point or bridge. It's also good value, allowing mobile workers with an Internet connection to create their own wireless hotspots for the price of a more conventional home or small-business solution.

Little bigger than a pack of playing cards, the device incorporates a single fixed Ethernet port and 54Mbits/sec wireless network interface with a switch to select one of three modes of operation.

The first of these is a full wireless router with built-in DHCP server, a firewall and Network Address Translation (Nat) for shared Internet access. Local wireless networking is also supported here and in the second mode, access point, where the DHCP and Nat servers are disabled leaving clients to use the host network resources to connect to the Internet. Finally, in client mode, the Travel Router acts as a bridge to wireless enable an ' device with a free Ethernet port.

Setup in each case is via a browser-based GUI with the usual wireless configuration

options including 128bit Wep or WPA encryption. The Wan port can also be configured and the level of firewall can be managed and port forwarding configured for public-facing servers.

We did have one small gripe – you need to carry around a separate AC adaptor because there's no PoE (Power over Ethernet) support. Still, that's a minor niggle on an otherwise excellent wireless router which will appeal to mobile and office-bound users alike.

Alan Stevens

DETAILS

PRICE £47 (E40 ex VAT)

CONTACT 3Com
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SPECIFICATIONS

Single 10/100Mbits/sec Ethernet port
 • Wifi-compliant 54Mbits/sec 802.11g wireless interface • 128bit Wep/WPA security • Hardware selectable Nat router with firewall and DHCP server • UPnP and Dynamic DNS support • AC adaptor, pouch and Ethernet cable

PROS Cheap, small and mobile

CONS No PoE support; no WPA-2 encryption

VERDICT

It's hard to find a better home or small-business router

FEATURES



PERFORMANCE



VALUE FOR MONEY



OVERALL

