

Upgrading Linksys wrt54G v8 firmware to dd-wrt.com firmware from Apple Mac User point of view

WHY BOTHER?

Many of the routers and firmware developed 8 years ago were not intended for the high volume of internet traffic we see today from highly graphic web sites. Many people have gone out and bought newer routers because their older routers were failing and had to be reset one or more times a day. The dd-wrt.com, linux based firmware upgrade is more stable and provides more features than the older personal firmware provide from the manufacturer.

Internet Service Provider Coax Cable

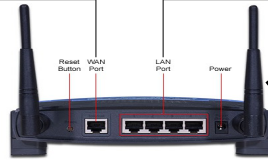


Motorola Cable Modem

ISP Coax Cable



Linksys wrt54G Router



Apple MacBook Pro



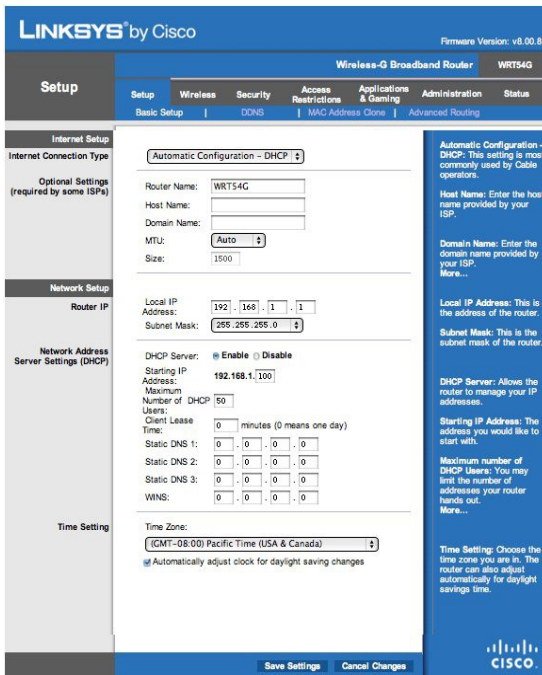
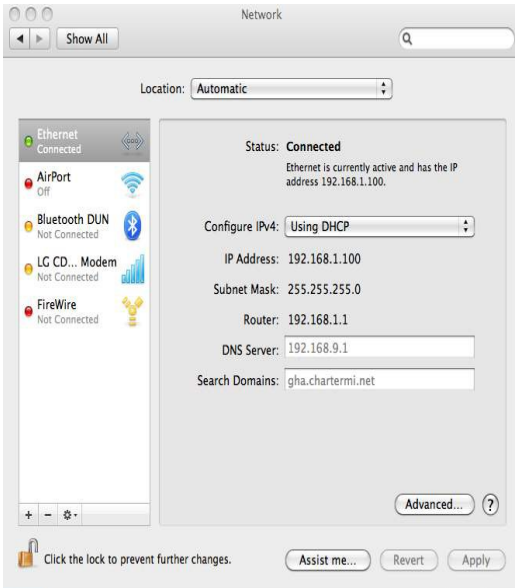
Apple iPad



Linksys wrt54G Router W dd-wrt.com firmware

dd-wrt54G Admin Commands to reset the Router's MAC address back to originals.

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- nvram set et0macaddr=00:1A:7E:51:16:E3
- nvram commit
(NOTE: Each command line must be run separately.)
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10. Disconnect the ethernet cable between you router and the cable modem.
11. Launch you Web Browser and logon to the router as before (ie: enter <http://192.168.1.1> in the url line at the top of your web browser window).
12. Go to the Administration, Firmware Upgrade Page, click the "Choose File" Button and navigate to the dd-wrt54G folder on your desktop.
13. Choose the "vxworkskillerGv8-v3.bin" file and click the upgrade button. Wait until you get a response back indicating success or failure of the upgrade. If failure, try again. If success, you are ready to launch the Terminal Utility Program to do a TFTP install of the "dd-wrt.com, dd-wrt.v24_micro_generic.bin" file.
14. To navigate to the correct directory, you need to know two linux commands:
 - "LS" for list current dir content.
 - "CD" for change dir.

The Terminal Program starts you off in your "User Directory". Type "LS" to confirm where you are at. Then type "CD Desktop" to change your dir to the "Desktop" directory. Type "LS" to confirm you are there.

15. Type "CD dd-wrt54G" and "LS" to confirm you are in the correct directory with all you firmware, xx.bin files.

16. Now type "TFTP -e 192.168.1.1" and press the Carriage Return to get to an TFTP> Prompt that is pointed to the router's IP Address and the Mac Directory where all the xx.bin files are located.

17. At the TFTP> Prompt type PUT dd-wrt.v24_micro_generic.bin then press the return key to start transferring the dd-wrt firmware to the router. If the transfer completed successfully, you will be informed in about 10 seconds that the file was sent. Disconnect and reconnect the router to reboot it. You will have to wait 2 to 3 minutes while the router reboots before you can access its web page (which is shown above).

1. Check that your network is up and running normally. (I usually go to the Google Home Search Page. If it comes up, you network is working properly.)
2. If you computer is not already connected to your router with an ethernet cable, Plug your computer into the LAN Port on your router with an ethernet cable.
3. Go to Your Sys Prefs/ Network Prefs and turn wireless off. This should activate the Ethernet Wired port on your computer and force the router to provide an IP address for it.
4. The IP address that your Cabled Ethernet port has been assigned should appear.
5. You are now ready to look at your Linksys Router web page and download the firmware support files from the Cisco.com and dd-wrt.com web sites. Create a folder on your Desktop called "dd-wrt54G" and move all the downloaded files into it. I create another folder within that folder called "zMisc" to hold the miscellaneous files that I will not need.

6. The IP address that you have been assigned is probably in the range of 192.168.1.1 to xx.254.
7. You can log onto the router's web page by opening Safari and entering the Router Address (Probably 192.168.1.1) in the URL Line at the top of the Safari Web Browser Page. You have done this to prove to yourself that you can get to the web page of your router. If you are challenged for a userID and Password and you did not change it when you were first setting up your network, then it is probably the Linksys defaults values of userID / PW "admin / admin".
8. To get to the Linksys/Cisco and dd-wrt.com web sites, type in the <http://www.cisco.com> and <http://www.dd-wrt.com> values, search for and download the appropriate firmware, binary (xx.bin) files for your router.
9. By default, the files are downloaded to your Download directory. I created the new directory on my desktop to make accessing the correct files easier, from the Terminal Utility when I need them.