

When configuring a Netgear wireless router/access point (R/AP), or any R/AP for that matter, always obtain the latest copy of the firmware from the manufacturer website.  
[http://kbserver.netgear.com/downloads\\_support.asp](http://kbserver.netgear.com/downloads_support.asp)

*The install guide will tell you how to plug everything in and log into the router. It is fairly clear and easy to understand.*

Use this to upgrade the equipment to support the latest devices and settings. Make sure to save the firmware file in a familiar location for later retrieval.

First, access the R/AP by opening the Internet browser on a computer directly connected to the R/AP, and typing <http://192.168.0.1> (if the settings have not been modified).

You will be presented with a login display.

Always the username is: admin  
The default password is: password

After logging into the R/AP, get familiar with the interface. You cannot hurt anything by clicking the menu items to the left.

Use the Router Upgrade menu item to install the new firmware. Browse for the file you downloaded from the manufacturer. Always read over the left panel for more information. It is usually easy to understand.

After the firmware upgrade is complete, log back into the R/AP.

Now that everything is fresh, we will want to setup the administrative password to keep random people from accessing your settings and logs.

Click the Set Password menu item to change the administrator password. This is fairly simple. (Use alpha/numeric passwords and capitals with at least 6 characters. This makes the passwords harder to guess or crack.)

Click Apply and your settings are changed. It will have you use the new password to log in again.

Now it is time for basic configuration.

Under the Basic Settings menu item, you will find a lot of settings to change. If you are using this R/AP as the main router for your home network, follow this guide. If not, seek help elsewhere because you are obviously capable. =)

**If you have Cable Internet**, your Internet Connection does not require a login. The internet IP address will be dynamically received from your ISP. The DNS address will be automatically received from your ISP. The Router MAC Address can be left at default

but you might have to call your ISP to have them re-capture it (depending on the company). You can use the MAC Address of the computer you are working from. If it was directly connected to the Cable Internet before, then choose this. Or you can specify a custom MAC Address.

Click apply and now you have the Internet side of your Router configured.

**If you have DSL Internet**, your Internet connection may require a logon. If you do not know, contact your ISP and have them help you through setting this up.

Always start at the Basic Settings menu item to setup the R/AP's Internet connection.

You can verify connectivity by choosing the Router Status menu item. This will display the current information about the R/AP. Look at the Internet Port section to see if there is an IP address listed. This should be similar to an IP address given to a computer if it was directly connected to the Internet.

After you have setup the R/AP's Internet connection, move on to setting up the Wireless Access.

### Wireless Setup

Choose the Wireless Settings menu item.

Again, read through the help section on the right side. You can click on a heading in the settings area to jump to that location in the help.

First **configure the name (SSID)**. This is what your R/AP will be called when viewed from a wireless accessible computer.

Set the **region and channel** that the R/AP will operate in (I don't think the region actually matters). The channel will be used by some older non-auto-sensing wireless cards to determine what frequency the wireless signal is on.

Next choose whether or not this R/AP will **act as a Wireless Access Point**. The will usually be enabled because that is why you bought this thing in the first place.

**Now choose if you want to broadcast the name (SSID)**. If you know what it is and can remember it. I would choose to not broadcast (this is more secure because in order to access this R/AP the computer must know the SSID) to keep unwanted users from accessing your R/AP.

Another bit of security is listed next. The **Wireless Card Access List** is a great way to keep people from stealing your Internet service.

If the Access Control is enabled, only people listed will be able to access the R/AP. This is a great feature and I highly recommend using it.

Simply press the Setup Access List button. From here you can turn on and off the Access Control using the checkbox at the top. To add a computer to the access list, click the add button. All un-added wireless cards that are available will show up at the top under Available Wireless Cards. You must know the Device Name (Computer name) in order to add it. Choose an available computer from the list and its information will be added to the textboxes at the bottom. If this is a computer you want to allow to access your R/AP, then click add. If not, choose another or enter the information manually. You can find out the MAC Address of a computer in Windows 98 by typing winipcfg at the run prompt. In Windows 2k/XP type cmd at the run prompt and run ipconfig /all in order to view the information about your network cards.

Add as many computers as you want and lets continue by clicking Apply.

Another useful security measure (although easily crackable) is **Security Encryption (WEP)**. Check the wireless cards' documentation for the most compatible Authentication Type (Automatic, Open System, or Shared Key). Then choose the strength of encryption (64-bit or 128-bit). After choosing the WEP settings, you must specify the Key. Use the generator to come up with some Keys. The Keys will be used on all wireless devices that access the R/AP. In order to access any information sent or received by the R/AP, the device must have the Key.

When done, click Apply at the bottom. This should allow computers to connect to the R/AP wirelessly and use the Internet if they have the proper **Computer Name, MAC Address, and WEP Key**. If you did not enable Broadcasting of the SSID, they will have to have the proper **SSID** as well.

To make connections a little smoother, use the LAN IP Setup menu item to configure the local address of the R/AP. The IP address is the one you used to login to the R/AP in the beginning but here is where you can change it if you want. I would **Use Router as DHCP Server** to assign IPs to clients automatically. Again, check the help on the right for more information.

Now you have a reasonably secure and reliable home wireless access point and home router. Remember, there are many other features on these types of routers but see the documentation on how to set them up. For example, Logging, Blocking Sites/Services, Port Forwarding, Static Routes, Remote Management, etc are all available.