Chapter 1: Introduction

The Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0

Put the "mobile" back into mobile computing! Whether you're at your desk or in the boardroom, the Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card allows you to share printers, files, and other resources anywhere within your LAN infrastructure, increasing your productivity and keeping you "in touch."

The Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card now has a new, higher-powered antenna that provides a greater range than ever. The increased sensitivity helps filter out interference and "noise" to keep your signal clear. Improved error correction in the chipset keeps you operating at higher transmission rates for longer distances. And, since you only need one Type II or III PCMCIA slot, you're free to use your other slots for additional accessories.

Ready to run in Type II or III PCMCIA-equipped notebook PCs running Windows 95, 98, Millennium, NT, 2000, and XP, the Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0 is truly a "must-have" for all notebook PC users.

Features

- 11 Mbps High-Speed Data Transfer Rate
- Compatible with Virtually All Major Network Operating Systems
- Plug-and-Play Operation Provides Easy Setup
- Integrated Equalizer Recovers Weak Signals and Enhances Sensitivity
- Sturdy Metal Design with Integrated Antenna
- Works with All Standard Internet Applications
- Interoperable with IEEE 802.11b (DSSS) 2.4GHz-Compliant Equipment
- Clear Channel Assessment Increases Network Throughput
- Hardware Buffer Chaining Provides High Performance While Reading and Writing Buffers
- Capable of up to 128-Bit WEP
- Free Technical Support—24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week for North America Only
- 1-Year Limited Warranty

Figure 1-1

Package Contents

- One Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0
- One Setup Utility CD-ROM (User Guide on CD)
- Quick Installation insert and Registration Card (not shown)

System Requirements

- A 16-bit PCMCIA Type II or Type III slot
- PCMCIA revisions 2.10 compliant card and socket services
- Windows 95, 98, Millennium, NT, 2000, or XP
- 600 Kbytes of free disk space for utility and driver installation

Chapter 2: Planning Your Wireless Network

Network Topology

A wireless LAN is exactly like a regular LAN, except that each computer in the LAN uses an Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0 to connect to the network through a wireless connection. Computers in a wireless LAN must be configured to share the same radio channel.

The Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0 provides LAN access for wireless workstations. An integrated wireless and wired LAN is called an Infrastructure configuration. A group of Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0 users and an Access Point compose a Basic Service Set (BSS). Each PC equipped with an Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0 in a BSS can talk to any computer in a wired LAN infrastructure via the Access Point.

An infrastructure configuration extends the accessibility of an Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0 PC to a wired LAN, and doubles the effective wireless transmission range for two PCs equipped with an Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0. Since the Access Point is able to forward data within its BSS, the effective transmission range in an infrastructure LAN is doubled.

Roaming

Infrastructure mode also supports roaming capabilities for mobile users. More than one BSS can be configured as an Extended Service Set (ESS). This continuous network allows users to roam freely within an ESS. All PCs, equipped with an Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0, within one ESS must be configured with the same ESS ID.

Before enabling an ESS with roaming capability, selecting a feasible radio channel and optimum Access Point position is recommended. Proper Access Point positioning combined with a clear radio signal will greatly enhance performance.

Chapter 3: Installing the Drivers and Configuration Utility for Windows 95, 98, ME, and 2000

Before You Start

Your new Linksys Instant Wireless™ Network PC Card ver. 3.0 comes with an automated software installation procedure for Windows 95, 98, Millennium, and 2000. ***Windows NT or XP users should refer to the next section.*** This new procedure automatically installs the drivers and Configuration Utility *before* you insert the Card into your PC, so there's no searching for the location of drivers. *Again, this step is taken before inserting the Card into your PC.*

Running the Auto Driver Installation

1. Before installing your card, insert the Setup Utility CD into your CD-ROM drive. Unless you have deactivated the auto-run feature of Windows, the screen shown in Figure 2-1 should appear automatically.

Figure 2-1

If this screen does not appear automatically, you can access the installation by clicking the **Start** button and choosing **Run**. In the drop-down box provided, type **D:\setup.exe** (where D: is the letter of your CD-ROM drive). Alternately, double-click **My Computer** and double-click the CD-ROM drive where the Setup Utility CD is located. Double-click the **Setup.exe** icon in the folder that appears.