

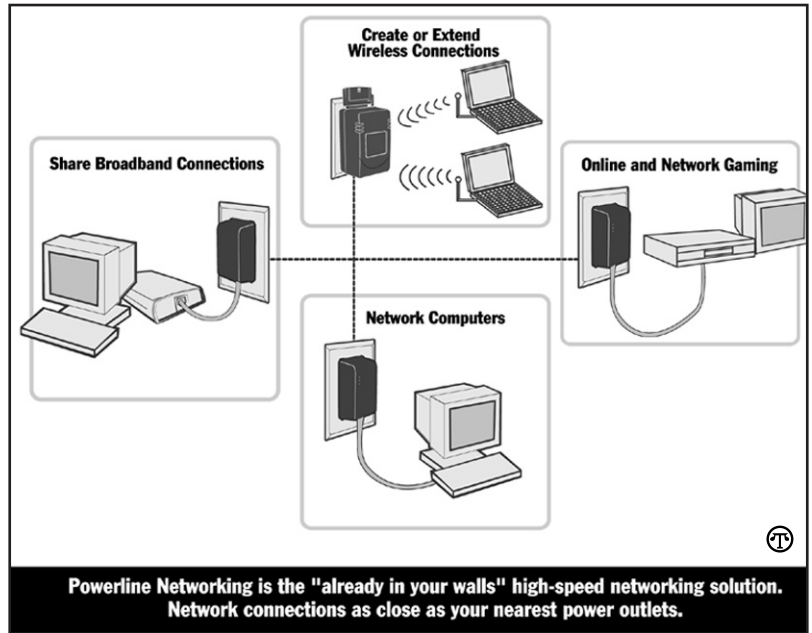
COMPUTER

NEWS AND NOTES • HELPFUL INFORMATION

A New Solution For Networking Your Home

(NAPSA)—The computer with your broadband Internet connection isn't connected to the laser printer, or to the computer in the den with your client records. And neither computer is connected to your kids' computers. You'd like to link them all together to be able to swap files and share your broadband connection and printer but you don't know where to start. Before you go down to the local computer electronics store and stare blankly at the racks of equipment in the "networking" section, you will be happy to know that your home is already completely wired and ready for a home network. In fact, any house wired for electricity is wired for networking because Powerline, a new technology, allows you to create a network using the electrical wiring already in the walls, and makes creating the network as easy as plugging in your alarm clock.

Last year, an organization called the HomePlug Powerline Alliance created the HomePlug 1.0.1 specification which allows Powerline networking through 110v power lines just by plugging a small adapter into a power outlet to convert the home's wiring into a high-speed network. These small adapters attach to your PC or other network devices with a small cable and then plug directly into electrical outlets to carry digital signals over the electrical wiring in the home—including areas such as patios or outbuildings like garages or guest houses on the same power grid. HomePlug 1.0.1 certified products such as the SpeedStream line from Siemens, an early Powerline technology leader, can connect PCs, Macs, routers and Ethernet-based Internet devices such as stereos



Powerline Networking is the "already in your walls" high-speed networking solution. Network connections as close as your nearest power outlets.

You can connect computers in your home or office without installing new wiring.

and even video game consoles.

"This type of networking technology promises to make home networking available to absolutely anybody," says Dave Schmertz, VP of the home networking products group that makes the SpeedStream products. "It's perfect for somebody with no experience in home networking and it's also perfect for somebody who wants to improve an existing Ethernet or wireless network, by closing any 'gaps' in their wireless coverage for example."

For computer users who already have Ethernet or wireless home networks, Powerline networking is a perfect way to extend or improve those networks. Let's say you have a wireless network in your home but there is a room or area where the signal isn't strong enough. You

can simply create a Powerline network by plugging a small adapter into the wall and connecting it to your computer. You can then plug a Powerline wireless access point directly into an electrical outlet in the room with weak signals and suddenly you've created a new wireless "hot spot" to boost signals in that part of the house.

A combination of all three technologies ensures full coverage. Standard Ethernet wiring can link computers in the same room, WiFi can be used to wirelessly reach other areas where Ethernet isn't practical and Powerline networking can fill any 'gaps' in the network.

For more information on using Powerline networking alone or with other networks, go to www.speedstream.com.