



AirConnect® 11 Mbps Wireless LAN PC Card Quick Start Guide

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Quick Start Guide

This guide describes basic installation of the AirConnect® wireless PC Card, and is intended for users familiar with PC Card and driver installation for Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows 2000, and Windows Millennium Edition (Windows Me).

For more detailed installation procedures and for installation under Windows NT 4.0 and Windows CE, refer to the *AirConnect Wireless PC Card User Guide*.

Refer to "Installing the Documentation" on page 4 of this quick start guide for information on setting up the online documentation.

This guide describes how to set up your wireless PC Card in infrastructure mode (networking using wireless clients and access points). Infrastructure mode requires that at least one access point be installed in your service area. You must set the Wireless LAN Service Area of your wireless client to that of the access point you will be using.

To use your wireless PC Card in ad hoc mode (networking between wireless clients only), no access point is required. Refer to the *AirConnect Wireless PC Card User Guide* for information.

Installing Under Windows 98, Windows 2000, and Windows Me

Before installing the driver, you will need a copy of the operating system installation media, usually a CD supplied with your computer or operating system.

On Windows 98 systems, the installation files are sometimes archived on the hard disk in C:\WINDOWS\OPTIONS\CABS.



CAUTION: *Installation under Windows 98 may result in a fatal error caused by the UHCD.SYS file in the Windows 98 operating system. To avoid this problem, you should update the UHCD.SYS file from v4.10.1998 to v4.10.2000. This update is available from the following Web site:*

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows98/downloads/contents/WURecommended/systemupdate/Default.asp>



The final Windows 98 installation screen may take 30-60 seconds to appear. Do not interrupt the installation if the PC appears to be taking too much time to complete the installation.

On Windows 2000 systems, you may be prompted to load operating system files from the Windows 2000 installation CD.

You will also need the *Installation* CD supplied with your AirConnect wireless PC Card. The Setup program installs configuration utilities in the Network application in the Control Panel.

Running Setup from the Installation CD

- 1 Turn on your computer.
- 2 Put the *Installation CD* in the CD-ROM drive.

The setup program should start automatically. If it does not start, you can run it manually by selecting *Run* from the Start menu and running *SETUP.EXE* from the CD-ROM drive.

- 3 On the *3Com AirConnect WLAN Menu* screen, select *Installation for Windows*.
- 4 Select *Adapter Installation Instructions*. Follow the instructions as they appear on the screen.
- 5 When prompted, insert the *AirConnect wireless PC Card* into the PC Card slot (Figure 1). Align the card properly before putting it in the slot. Insert the card firmly without forcing until it seats snugly.



CAUTION: Forcing a misaligned card into the slot can damage the computer or the card.

The driver installation procedure guides you through the steps standard for your operating system. If you are unfamiliar with driver installation procedures, refer to the *AirConnect Wireless PC Card User Guide* for details. You will be asked to supply CDs or directory path information for the *Installation CD* and your operating system software. As part of the driver installation process, the setup program will install and open the Network application in the Control Panel.

- 6 Enter the name of the **Wireless LAN Service Area** of the wireless network to which your computer will connect. The name you enter here must match exactly the name assigned to the access point. Characters, capitalization, and spacing must be identical.



If the access point you wish to connect to is set for encryption, you must also enable encryption on the wireless client. Click *Advanced* to go to screens where you can enable and configure encryption.

You must set the wireless client for the same encryption algorithm and shared key values as the access point it will connect to. Refer to the *AirConnect Wireless PC Card User Guide* for details about configuring encryption.

- 7 Save the configuration settings and exit by clicking *OK*.
- 8 Restart your computer.
- 9 When the system reboots, restart the setup program and install any other required components.
- 10 Make sure that the network protocol parameters (IP address, gateway, and subnet mask) are set correctly for your computer.

3Com recommends that you install the wireless LAN applications so you can access the utilities described in the *AirConnect Wireless PC Card User Guide*.

- 11 Restart your computer for changes to take effect.

Installing Under Windows 95

Installation under Windows 95 is identical to the procedure given above for Windows 98 and Windows 2000. Only Windows 95 version B (OSR 2) or higher is supported.

To determine which version of Windows 95 you have, go to the Windows Control Panel and double-click *System* to display the System Properties dialog box. Click the *General Tab* to display the Windows 95 version information. Version B (also known as OSR 2) is identified as 4.00.950b.

Orienting the Antenna

The PC Card antenna is located at the end of the PC Card.

For best use of the antenna:

- Keep the area around the antenna clear from materials that could block radio transmission, such as metal objects, electronic devices, and cordless telephones.
- If necessary, move your notebook computer a few inches to find a better signal. Depending on your environment, a difference of one or two inches can mean the difference between a strong and a weak signal.

Even a slight change in PC orientation can improve a wireless connection, just as moving a radio an inch or two to the left or right can improve reception.

- If you have installed the WLAN Applications, you may use the Signal Strength display in the AirConnect Status application to determine the best location and orientation for a network connection. For details, refer to the *AirConnect Wireless PC Card User Guide*.

Wireless PC Card LED

The PC Card LED (Figure 2) indicates the operational status of the card.

Off	Slow Blinking	Fast Blinking
The PC Card is not functioning, is disabled, or is not installed correctly.	The card is attempting to associate with an access point or ad hoc wireless client	The card is exchanging data with an access point or ad hoc wireless client. The higher the data rate, the faster the blinking.

Removing the Wireless PC Card

- 1 Use the release lever or button on your card slot to free the PC Card.
- 2 Pull on the sides of the card to remove it from the slot. Do not pull on the antenna (Figure 3).

Installing the Documentation

If you want to review more detailed installation procedures than those provided by this guide, refer to the *AirConnect Wireless PC Card User Guide*.

- 1 Put the *Installation* CD in the CD-ROM drive. The Setup program will start automatically.**

If the Setup program does not start, use Start/Run to run the SETUP.EXE program from CD-ROM drive.

- 2 Select *Documentation*.**

You can view the manuals from the CD.

- 3 To install the manuals on your hard disk, select *Install User Documentation*. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.**

- 4 Exit the setup program.**

You can open the manuals from the AirConnect program group.

Product Registration and Support

To register this product with 3Com, go to the following Web site:

<http://www.3com.com/productreg/index.html>

For support information and pointers to the latest drivers and utilities available for the AirConnect wireless PC Card, go to the following Web site:

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AirConnect® 11 Mbps Wireless LAN PC Card

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3Com® AirConnect® Wireless PC Card

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January 3, 2000

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- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that which the receiver is connected.
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