# Xbox and Home Networking

XBOX

To provide Media Center experiences, you connect the Xbox console to a Media Center PC using either a wired (Ethernet) or wireless network. Below are some tips and guidelines for connecting the Xbox console to your home network. For more information on networking the Xbox console to the Media Center PC, visit http://www.microsoft.com/mediacenter/.
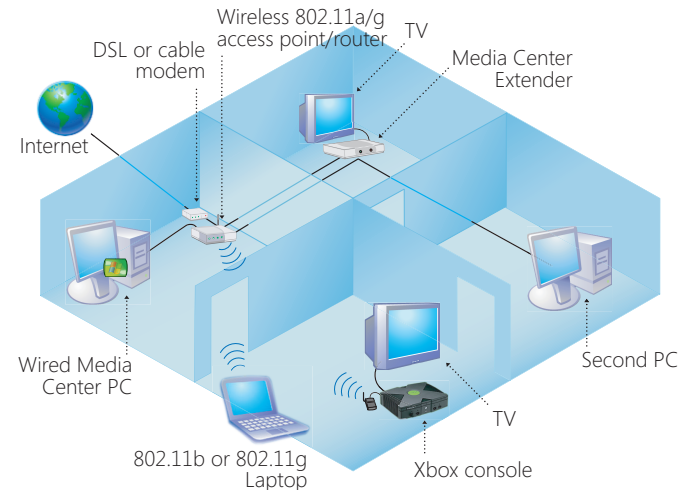
A. Wired Network Connections

Wired, Best
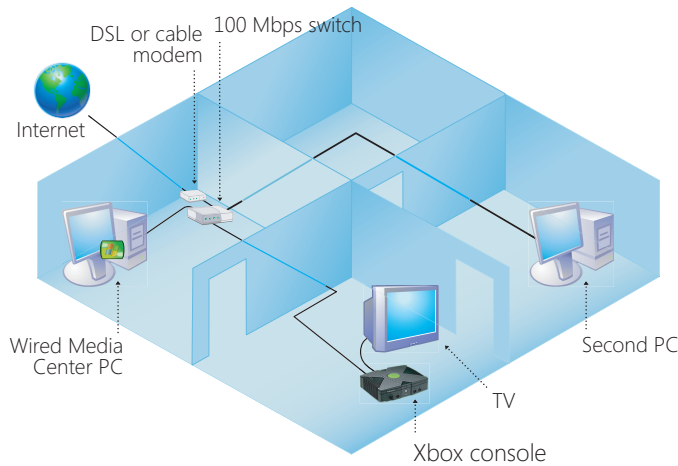
In a wired network, all PC components and devices are connected to the network using RJ-45 Ethernet cables.

In this configuration, the Microsoft® Windows® XP Media Center PC and Xbox console are connected directly using Ethernet cables.

- Make sure to use an Ethernet switch that supports 100 megabits per second (Mbps).
- Depending on the capabilities of the Media Center PC, this configuration supports up to five Xbox consoles or Media Center Extenders.

B. Wireless Network Connections

802.11a, Good　　**802.11g, Fair**

In this network configuration, all PC components and devices are connected to the network using Ethernet cables, except for the Xbox console which is connected to the network using an 802.11a or 802.11g wireless router.

- One wireless Xbox console and four additional wired Xbox consoles can be supported depending on your Media Center PC capability.
- 802.11a networks are the least likely to experience interference from other wireless devices.

C. Setting Up and Troubleshooting the Xbox Console on a Wireless Network

When setting up an Xbox console on a wireless network or troubleshooting problems with an Xbox console on a wireless network, follow these guidelines:

1. Select and set up the access point or router
- Use an approved Xbox wireless adapter and an Xbox compatible access point or router (802.11 A+G recommended). For more information about approved Xbox wireless adapters and Xbox compatible access points or routers, visit http://www.xbox.com/connect.
- When using a dual A+G access point or router, make sure the 802.11a and 802.11g networks have different, unique network names (SSIDs).
- When you first set up the access point or router, make sure the external antennas are oriented vertically.

2. Locate and position the Xbox console, access point and router
- Before you position the Xbox console, imagine a straight line between the Xbox console and the access point.
- Locate the Xbox console and access point or router so there are as few obstructions as possible along the straight line. Obstructions include such items as TVs, cabinets, other electronics, and furniture.

- There should be no more than two walls or two floors between the wireless antenna and the access point.

3. Connect the Xbox console to the network
- Use the Media Center Extender for Xbox Setup Guide to set up the Xbox console hardware and cables. Then use the Windows Media Center Extender Setup Wizard on the Media Center PC to install the software and make sure the Xbox console and network are working.

4. Try the following if you experience pauses in TV viewing when using the Xbox console
- When connecting the Media Center PC to an 802.11 A+G access point or router, use 802.11a for the Media Center PC. Use 802.11g for other wireless devices such as laptops.
- The following devices can cause interference with 802.11g networks. Adjusting them might reduce interference.
  - 802.11b wireless networking devices
  - Microwave ovens, 2.4 GHz cordless phones, 2.4 GHz baby monitors
 - Other wireless networks, for example those from neighboring houses

Good Performance
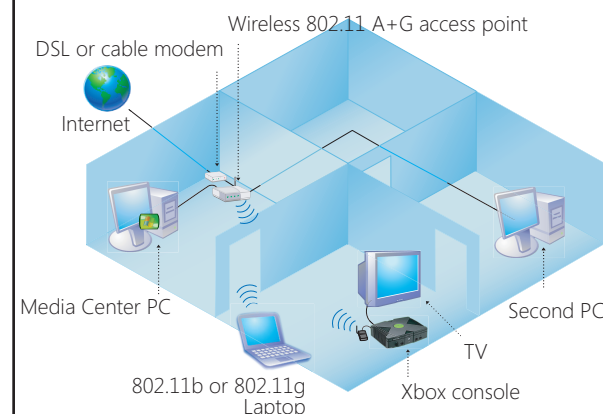
Poor Performance: too many obstructions, 2.4 GHz interference
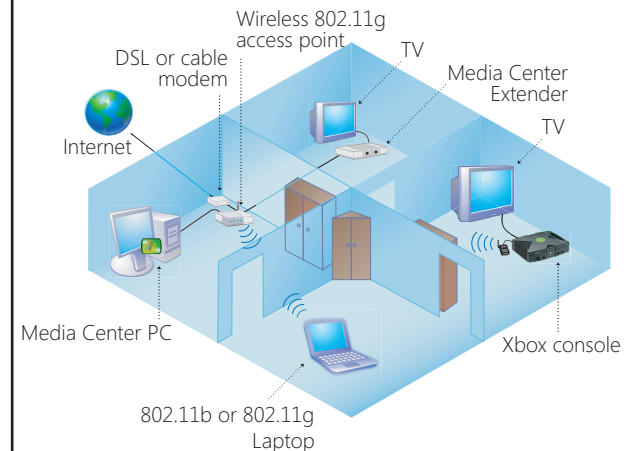
Don't Do This! 802.11b network

Poor

Do not use an **802.11b network for Media Center PC and Xbox connections**. The 802.11b network standard does not provide the necessary capacity to support a Media Center PC or Extenders. Reserve 802.11b for other wireless devices such as laptops.
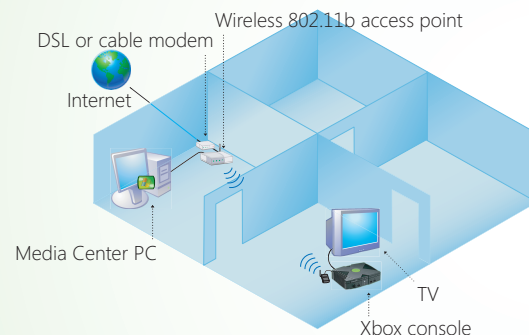
Don't Do This! Two wireless links

Poor

Do not connect a Media Center PC to a wireless router and an Xbox console to a wireless router at the same time. Most home networks do not have the capacity to support video transmitted across such a wireless connection.

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