Corinex HD Video Connectivity Kit (Powerline Networking System): Review By Chris Boylan

Get Yourself Connected

When I wrote recently about DISH Network's new PIVT system, which allows you to view a wide selection of TV shows over the internet, directly from your satellite receiver, I described how easy it was to enable the feature. I concluded that even if you only plugged a network cable to the back of your DVR, hook it up to your cable or DSL modem or home network and you're ready to roll. But for many people, it's not that simple.

If your cable or DSL modem is in the home office, with the satellite receiver in the living room, you're left with only a few options: a.) punch some holes in your walls to run network cables, b.) run a network cable around an floor or walls of your home which could be unsightly, or c.) purchase a powerline networking product like the Corinex High Definition Video Connectivity Kit, which uses your existing AC power lines as a computer network.

The Corinex Powerline networking system uses your home's existing AC power wires as the backbone for a home network. But it's actually more dynamic IP address network. But you don't need to get involved in regulating the network traffic - it happens auto-magically. The master device doesn't become the "slaves." The master regulates traffic through the network assigning devices addresses similar to the way DHCP addresses work in a home network.

I used one AV200 box at the router and one more in each of the two remote locations. I then used two simple inexpensive network switches (a 5-port). I plugged the box into a wall power outlet in my office and ran a network cable from it to my router. I plugged the other Corinex box into a wall power outlet in my living room, running its network cable into the back of my DISH DVR.

The AV200 Powerline Wall Mount plug adopts a standard ethernet connection but over AC power lines. It will try to find the back of your DISH HPG222 DVR.

The DISH DVR was now connected to the internet. In other words, it worked! But I get paid by the word around here so I feel compelled to write a little more about this little "magic box" and how it works.

Plays Nice With Others

The Corinex HD Video Connectivity Kit contains 2 Corinex AV200 Powerline Wall Mount adapters and a Powerline Noise Filter. The filter can increase the performance of any home from devices such as hair dryers or vacuum cleaners. If you don't need the filter, or if you want to buy additional AV200 extension boxes, you can get the AV200 Powerline Wall Mount - Dual Pack for a little less money. It's identical to the High Def Video connectivity kit but without the filter.

The High Definition Video Connectivity Kit includes two AV200 powerline networking boxes plus a power filter which can include AC line noise.

And speaking of filters, I'd heard that some powerline networking products cannot work with power strips or power conditioners. I asked Corinex VP of Marketing and Business Development, Brian Donnelly about this and he said, "performance is optimized directly to the wall. Some very expensive power conditioners will block our signal, however a cheap power strip doesn't affect our signal and we work through these." Brian also told me about a new product Corinex has developed to address exactly this issue. The Powerline Wall Mount Wall F is like an AV200 powerline networking box, but with a pass-through electrical socket. In this case you'd plug the Wall Mount F into the wall and plug the power conditioner into the Wall Mount F. Then you'd have the power conditioning and the home networking running from the same outlet without either interfering with the other.

Play Nice With Others

With five different network-capable devices in two remote locations, I could have used six AV200 power boxes, one plugged into the router and one into each component. But frankly I didn't have enough power outlets to go around, and this wouldn't have been the most cost effective solution. Instead I used one AV200 box and one more in each of the two remote locations. I then used two simple inexpensive network switches (a 5-port Linksys switch and a 5-Port-D-Link switch) in each of the remote locations in order to distribute the network connections among the various devices.
On our HDCP-enabled network, this configuration worked great. I simply had to go into each source component's set-up screen once to refresh the network connection (retrieving an IP address for each device) and I was good to go.

Final Thoughts

As the line between computers and consumer electronics devices blurs, a simple connection between the home network and the living room or home theater becomes more desirable. The lucky ones who have their houses pre-wired with cat5 or cat6 networking cable need not worry but those with existing construction are faced with the daunting task of running cables and installing jacks, potentially in multiple locations throughout the home. Sure, some devices are wireless-enabled, but not all, and nothing beats the bandwidth of solid copper wire.

The Corinex High Definition Video Connectivity Kit provides a relatively inexpensive and extremely simple solution, enabling every power jack in your home with a high bandwidth network connection, without the hassle of running new wires. Go buy one. And with the time you save over installing your own home network via more traditional means, you can sit back and enjoy a few movies.

Where to Buy Products Included In this Review:

- Corinex High Definition Video Connectivity Kit (Amazon.com)
- Corinex AV200 Powerline Wall-Mount Dual Pack (Amazon.com)
- Linksys EZXS55W 5-port Network Switch (Amazon.com)
- D-Link DES-1105 5-port Network Switch (Amazon.com)

What's in the Box:

- 2 Corinex AV200 Powerline Wall Mount Adapters
- 1 Powerline Noise Filter
- 2 Ethernet cables
- CD and Manual
- Quick Start Guide, warranty and registration card

Manufacturer's Specifications (High Definition Video Connectivity Kit):

- Up to 200Mbps
- QoS - Priority Classification with 8 priority queues
- 802.1D Ethernet bridge protocol with optimized spanning tree
- DES/3DES 168 bit encryption
- Broadcast and Multicast support
- CSMA/CA protocol
- Up to 1,000 foot range
- Web interface
- Plug and Play, no drivers required

Manufacturer's Contact Information:

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| OVERALL | ★★★★☆ |
| VALUE | ★★★ ★ |
| PERFORMANCE | ★★★★☆ |
| FEATURES/ERGONOMICS | ★★★☆ |

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