

EnGenius 300Mbps Wireless N Gigabit Router

More Than Meets The Eye

At first glance, the EnGenius 300Mbps Wireless N Gigabit Router ESR-9850 is just a demure white router, but under that unassuming façade are smart features that get the most out of its already solid specifications.

Specifications

The ESR-9850 is an 802.11n Gigabit router and is capable of a theoretical 300Mbps data throughput. EnGenius has packed in plenty of technologies to coax the best performance out of this relatively inexpensive router, including a Gigabit Ethernet switch, NAT (Network Address Translation), and a Range Expander to get more out of the antennas.

It also includes a number of security features, such as WEP (Wired Equivalent Privacy), WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access), and WPA2 encryption. You can easily set up the encryption with the WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup) button. Other security features include an SPI firewall, Mac address filtering, and policy-based parental controls.

Wireless routers typically provide reduced throughput when multiple users are engaged in high-bandwidth activities, such as streaming video or music, gaming, or participating in a video chat. To avoid those performance issues, the ESR-9850 has WiFi Multimedia technology, which separates and prioritizes different types of

traffic. For instance, a VoIP call would take precedence over the file download in the network's priorities. Although a file that is being downloaded to another PC on the network may download at a slower pace, it ensures that the VoIP call is smooth and clear.

Among other handy features is multiple SSIDs (Service Set Identifiers), which allows you to create a guest network for visitors to use. That way, you can allow others to use your network without having to divulge your encryption key.

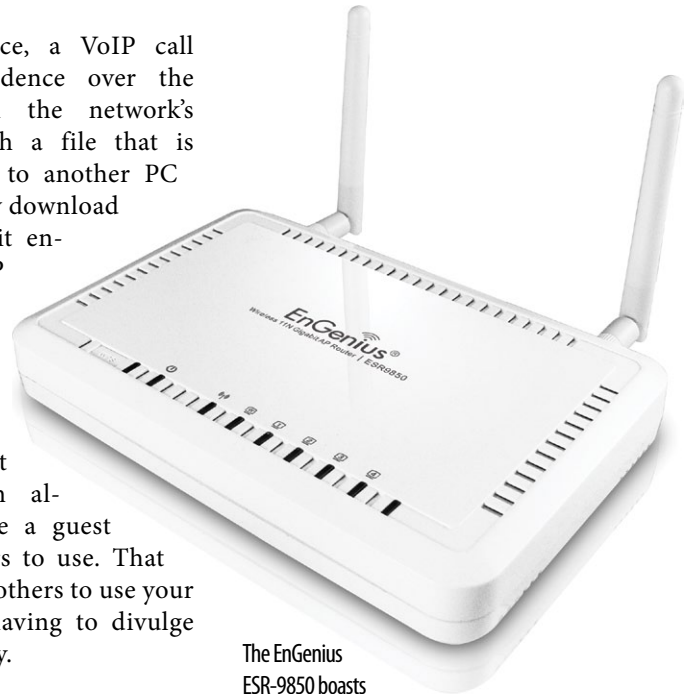
Design

A pair of white antennas protrude from the otherwise low-profile, all-white router. The antennas are easily removable so that you can actually upgrade to more powerful antennas at some point if you so desire. There is a bank of blue and red status lights on the front top of the ESR-9850, as well as the WPS button.

All the ports are in the back; in addition to the two spots for antennas, the router has a DC jack, WAN port, and four LAN 10/100/1000 ports.

It also has a reset button that is designed to be nearly impossible to press inadvertently, ensuring that you won't accidentally disrupt your network when handling the router.

The back of the EnGenius ESR-9850 sports two antennas, a DC jack, WAN port, and four LAN ports.



The EnGenius ESR-9850 boasts plenty of smart and powerful features under the hood.

Setup is relatively easy; just follow the instructions on the included installation disc and you can be surfing the Web within minutes.

Performance

With the ESR-9850, there can be multiple users on the wireless network at once doing multiple tasks, even, apparently, at a distance. We maintained a full wireless signal at over 80 feet away in a straight line, and at about 60 feet with some obstructions.

A strong signal persisted for an additional 90 feet, even through a couple of walls. The signal became weak but still usable outside the building, at around 150 feet. Thus, it will deliver solid performance for virtually any home or small office setting, or for a substantial group of workers within a larger office setting. ■

