

The following is a compilation of selected previous posts. It is an attempt to give both an overview of the two main functions of the WMLS11B Media Link (internet radio and digital music libraries stored on a PC) and the initial steps to make it functional

OVERVIEW OF WMLS11B MEDIA LINK

The software included with the WMLS11B consists of several separate functional units. One part of the software deals with updating the firmware in the WMLS11B, while the other is a somewhat unsatisfactory media server. Neither is specifically required to make the WMLS11B work well and most users don't recommend using either s/w that comes on the CD with the Media Link.

Firmware updating is important if you listen to a lot of internet radio, as the original WMLS11B firmware no longer properly maintains the internet radio database and leaves more than a few stations unusable. However, unlike those of us who followed the development saga through several different versions, it's likely you'll only update the firmware once, probably to 2.3.5 or the slightly more polished 2.3.6 -- functionally, the two appear to be pretty much identical. The Linksys firmware updating software works fine for most people, but some have better results with the WAAI utility; both, however, can be stymied by a host of seemingly obscure problems ranging from Windows firewall and permission settings to (it seems) the phase of the moon. Once the firmware is successfully updated, though, the installer serves no function in the actual operation of the WMLS11B, which is done from the LCD control panel or using any modern web browser (Firefox works well) to connect to the WMLS11B's built-in web server.

NOTE: Update firmware using a wired connection only.

The media server software is used only to serve local playlists to the WMLS11B, or to internet radio stations that do not stream in mp3 format. (wmls11b can ONLY play mp3 files). Make sure to pick a media server software that supports transferring your files/internet radio format to mp3. I The media server s/w is not needed to listen to MP3 streamed internet radio- the WMLS11B can do this even if every computer on your LAN is turned off. (There's a very specific exception to this which affects maybe one in ten thousand WMLS11B users who choose to do so.)

The media server software included by Linksys is marginal, and if you let it update itself it will usually stop working with the WMLS11B entirely. I happen to prefer Twonky (the free audio-only version) on my Windows servers but others have used different servers with good results.

Unfortunately, many of the same issues which block the firmware updater -- especially firewall settings and OS privileges -- can also stop your mediaserver dead in its tracks by blocking it from your WMLS11B.

Like most technical details, there are many nuances, exceptions and workarounds to the aforementioned information. Now one can peruse the many excellent posts to learn how to get what you want out of the Media Link. Please remember that self service is the first option and be willing to spend a few hours learning about the WMLS11B from the Group site posts before posting a request for help or information.

INITIAL STEPS FOR NEW INSTALLATION

NOTE: in case one cannot complete any of these steps or one encounters a “brick” unit (i.e., one that does not boot, operate properly or the screen is blue), use the hard reset button on the Media Link.

There are two reset procedures:

Simple Reset

push the reset button located on the Media Link for a few seconds. The WMLS11B should reboot and show a normal screen. This does not clear or revert the firmware

Radical Reset

a) hold down the reset button b) pull out the power connector for a few seconds and then plug it back in while still holding the reset button for few more seconds until the display comes back. c) In some cases, you should repeat this process a few times to invoke a normal boot up.

- 1) Do NOT use the supplied installation CD
- 2) Connect all the wires to the Media Link. This is documented on the back of the right speaker and in the Quick Installation brochure.
- 3) Connect the PC to the Media Link via wired ethernet (do not use wireless at this point). Connecting direct to the PC minimizes possible communication issues but success has been reported connecting the two devices via a router. Turn off any firewalls to minimize communication issues.
- 4) move the Media Link ethernet port switch to the "crossover" position
- 5) download the WAAI utility and Firmware version 2.3.6 from this Yahoo group site under "Files".
- 6) uncompress these files and run the WAAI utility to flash the firmware in the Media Link to the latest version
- 7) Using the front panel buttons on the Media link (or the remote), navigate to "Network Setup" and configure the Media Link. You can use the Quick Installation brochure that ships with the Media Link to guide you in setting up the parameters (the parameters are similar to setting up a wireless router)
- 8) Connect the Media Link to the internet (wired or wireless) and test the internet radio functionality using the front panel or remote. You should be able to access all +/- 2K radio stations through various selections on the front panel or remote.
NOTE: The PC is not required for this step.
- 9) Connect the PC to the Internet (and the Media Link). Install or activate media server s/w. Windows Media Player v11 works. Many users recommend Twonky which can be downloaded from the "Files" link on this Group site. Refer to the media server to enable communication between the WMLS11B and the media server s/w.
- 10) test the communication by accessing "Media Server" on the Front Panel or the remote. It should state the name of the media server. Test the functionality by accessing stored music on the PC via the media server.
- 11) for easier access and favorites setup for internet radio stations, point your browser to www.linksysradio.com and enter your Media Link MAC number (digits, no dashes). You now have sixty days of free access to the +/- 2K radio stations. After sixty days it will drop to 50 stations unless

you pay a one time, unlimited use \$30 fee. NOTES: a) There are ways to find and program your own radio stations. Refer to posts on this Group site. b) the WMLS11B does not handle every codec- it is mainly MP3. Refer to posts on this Group site for information about listening to other codecs (e.g. WMA, Real Networks, etc.)