Frequently Asked Questions:
Home Networking, Wireless Adapters, and Powerline Adapters for the BRAVIA Internet Video Link

What is a home network?

A home network is a way of connecting your BRAVIA® Internet Video Link with your broadband Internet service using a powerline adapter, a wireless bridge, or a wireless gaming adapter. Sony recommends the use of either a powerline adapter or a wireless bridge that physically connects to your BRAVIA Internet Video Link via an Ethernet cable. Both the powerline adapter and wireless bridge are used as a pair of units…one that connects to your BRAVIA Internet Video Link and the matched unit which is connected to your home router, cable modem, or DSL modem, also via an Ethernet cable. The paired devices recognize each other without a complicated software set-up procedure.

What is a wireless network?

A wireless network is a way of connecting your BRAVIA Internet Video Link to the Internet using a wireless router combined with a wireless bridge or gaming adapter. They communicate with each other by sending radio signals to transfer video content and data. There are various wireless technology standards such as 802.11b, 802.11g, and 802.11n that are used by a wireless bridge or gaming adapter, and are capable of providing a wireless link between your broadband Internet service and the BRAVIA Internet Video Link. Please see the sections that explain these in more detail. Also remember that home appliances, home building materials, and distance from a router impact the speed of your wireless connection.

What is a router?

A router is a home networking device that acts as a gateway, allowing other wired and wireless consumer electronics such as desktop computers, notebook computers, gaming consoles, and digital media receivers to connect to the Internet and to each other so that information can be shared or transmitted. Most home networks have a router directly connected to either a cable modem or DSL modem via an Ethernet cable, so that other home devices can share the same Internet connection. A router serves as the central hub or gateway that controls the flow of information from one device to another, or from a home device to the Internet. A router links devices by an IP address that identifies each device on a home network.

What is an Ethernet cable?

An Ethernet cable is a certain type of networking cable, often called a CAT 5 cable or RJ-45 cable, which connects home networking devices together through an interface that looks similar to a phone jack. An Ethernet cable looks like a phone cable but has more

metal pins than a standard telephone cable, normally 8 pins or wires compared to 4 pins, and it clips into a slightly wider interface or jack just like a phone cable does.

What is a powerline adapter?

A powerline adapter is a way of connecting your BRAVIA Internet Video Link with your broadband Internet service using a set of paired devices that plug into your wall power outlets and attach with an Ethernet cable. The devices send data over your home's electrical wiring, but powerline networking operates on a different frequency from standard AC current. By simply plugging one of the powerline adapters into the nearest power outlet and connecting your BRAVIA Internet Video Link to it with an Ethernet cable, and then plugging the second powerline adapter into the outlet nearest your home router, cable modem, or DSL modem and connecting it, your BRAVIA Internet Video Link can now access the Internet. All without a complicated set-up procedure…the devices recognize each other.

What is a Wireless Bridge?

A wireless bridge is a way of connecting your BRAVIA Internet Video Link to the Internet using a set of paired devices that communicate wirelessly and instantly recognize each other, thus avoiding complicated set-up procedures. One device in the pair connects directly to your BRAVIA Internet Video Link via an Ethernet cable, and the other device in the pair connects to your home router also via an Ethernet cable. Once both are connected they recognize each other automatically and communicate wirelessly. There is no software that needs configuring, so setup is easy.

What is a Wireless Gaming Adapter?

Wireless gaming adapters are not just for connecting game consoles to the Internet, but can be used for many consumer electronic products that are capable of being connected to a home network. A wireless gaming adapter is a home networking device that connects your BRAVIA Internet Video Link to your home router and then out to the Internet. If your gaming adapter is the same brand as your router, it will normally work by simply connecting it to your BRAVIA Internet Video Link. Also, with some new gaming adapters they can be configured automatically with newer routers by using a standard called Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS), which allows a button to be pushed on the adapter and on the router so that they can "find" each other and connect. Otherwise, the gaming adapter's set-up guide will ask you to first connect the gaming adapter to your personal computer or broadband router with the included Ethernet cable. Then, you can configure it correctly using your computer's web browser or a provided CD that gives you step by step instructions to follow for software set-up.

What is the difference between 802.11b, 802.11g, and 802.11n wireless products?

Commonly known by the brand Wi-Fi, these numerical references often seen on wireless products denote a set of wireless standards developed by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical

and Electronics Engineers) Standards Committee. Each of these wireless technologies and standards provides a specific connection method or way of transferring data over your home wireless network. The 802.11b and 802.11g standards use the 2.4/2.5 GHz radio frequencies, and have average connection speeds of 4.5 Mbit/s (1 million bits per second) and 20 Mbit/s respectively. The newest standard 802.11n uses both the 2.4 GHz and the 5.0 GHz radio frequencies, and has an average connection speed of 74 Mbit/s, making it the choice for fast wireless connections. Though the latest standard 802.11n standard has not been fully ratified, it does exist in draft form and products exist that can be used for home networking. Because 802.11n uses the 5.0 GHz frequency band, it can avoid many interference effects from home appliances and neighboring wireless networks.

Can other home electrical products interfere with my Powerline adapter or Wireless bridge?

Yes, depending on the type of product used, such as a microwave oven, a vacuum, a hair dryer, or cordless home phone you may experience a reduction in the connection speed of your home powerline network or wireless network when you use certain home appliances while using your BRAVIA Internet Video Link. Some home appliances operate at the same frequencies or close frequencies to your home networking devices, and thus the wave signals can “bounce” off each other causing a slower connection speed. This “noise” is common among home networks, though many networking devices have ways of filtering out much of the interference to compensate for the signal degradation. Examples of these are powerline devices that “hop” frequencies that are congested, and wireless MIMO (multiple-in, multiple-out) technologies that send data over many radio frequencies at once.

Can my powerline adapters interfere with my lighting or electrical home products?

Yes. Depending on the type of lighting or lamps that you have in your home, and if you have a dimmer switch or touch-sensitive on/off switch that sends or receives data signals, you may experience interference with that function when using your powerline devices. Some home electrical products send or receive data signals at higher frequencies as part of their control features. These signals may also be used by powerline adapters, and the resulting signal noise can temporarily affect performance.

Can I plug my powerline adapter into a power strip or surge-protector?

We do not recommend that you plug your powerline adapters into a power strip or surge-protector because the throughput or speed of your connection can be significantly reduced using this method. Most power strips or surge-protectors have noise filters which affect the quality of the powerline signal. Moreover, as with all networking connections there is the potential for interference with the signal that is received by the Ethernet cable. Therefore, we recommend that powerline adapters be plugged directly into the nearest wall power outlet, unless your power strip brand clearly states that it is compatible with powerline technology.

Will my powerline adapters or wireless bridges protect the content and information being received and sent by my BRAVIA Internet Video Link?

Yes. All powerline networking gear either requires pairing via physical buttons on each device, or includes an optional encryption scheme, similar to that used with Wi-Fi, that will prevent anyone from jumping on your network — even if you're on the same circuit. Wireless bridges or W-Fi networking commonly allow for two types of encryption, WEP and WPA2. Both of these means of encrypting content use advanced "ciphers" that code or hide the content being sent, so that others who might have access to your network cannot view your content or data.

What if I receive an error message that says, "Service Not Found", when I attempt to use my BRAVIA Internet Video Link?

If you receive this error after setting up your BRAVIA Internet Video Link, then your cable modem or DSL modem is likely not connecting to the Internet. Please check to make sure your broadband modem is connected to your router or your network adapters. If they are and this error is still displayed, then turn off your modem, wait a few seconds, and then turn it back on (reboot) to establish a new connection to your broadband service. Once done, reset your BRAVIA Internet Video Link by 1) pressing the Home button on your TV remote control, 2) navigating to Settings with the arrow keys, 3) scrolling down to the Internet Video icon, and 4) selecting the "Refresh Services" menu item to connect to the Internet again.

What if I receive an error message that says, "Network Down", when I attempt to use my BRAVIA Internet Video Link?

If you receive this error after setting up your BRAVIA Internet Video Link, then your router or network adapters are likely not connected properly to your cable or DSL modem. Please check to make sure that your router is tightly connected to your cable or DSL modem with an Ethernet cable. Also, please make sure that your powerline adapters or wireless bridges are connected to your router and your BRAVIA Internet Video link with an Ethernet cable that "clicks" or locks in. Sometimes Ethernet cables can slip out of their sockets or interfaces if the locking tab is broken or damaged. If your wire connections are properly fitted, then turn off your router, wait a few seconds, and then turn it back on (reboot) to establish a new connection to your modem and broadband service. Once done, then unplug the power to your BRAVIA Internet Video link, wait a few seconds, and then plug it back in (reboot) to establish a new connection to the router.

When I plug my BRAVIA Internet Video Link into the TV for the first time, using the included HDMI™ cable, do I then need to select that input (HDMI 1 or HDMI 2) by pressing the input button on my remote control and making a selection?

No. When you first connect your BRAVIA Internet Video Link using the included HDMI cable and DMe^{x} cable, the TV automatically recognizes your new device and loads the additional menu icons where you will see and choose your video content. You

do not need to manually select the HDMI 1 or HDMI 2 input selections using your remote. If you happen to do that, you can still use your BRAVIA Internet Video Link by simply going to the video icon and selecting and playing content.

How do I connect my Blu-ray Disc™player, DVD player, or PlayStation® console to my TV's HDMI port so that it plays, without having to disconnect my BRAVIA Internet Video Link?

Your BRAVIA Internet Video Link has an extra HDMI port on the front face of the module. The extra input can be used to connect other HDMI devices without having to remove your BRAVIA Internet Video Link itself. This extra HDMI port will allow the video to be "passed through" to the TV so that you can play your BD discs, DVD's, and video games. Once you connect another device to the extra HDMI port, you then need to manually select HDMI 1 or HDMI 2 using your remote control. To do this, press the input button on your remote and then select the appropriate input for your BRAVIA Internet Video Link. Once selected, your additional video device is ready to use. If you want to return to using your BRAVIA Internet Video Link simply navigate to the video icon on the Xross Media Bar® menu, choose the content you want to watch and then play it. You will now be out of "pass through mode", and back into normal mode.

What is the "Service" port for on the front face of my BRAVIA Internet Video Link?

The "Service" port on the front face of your BRAVIA Internet Video Link is a connector that allows your module to be technically evaluated and serviced by Sony Electronics or an authorized service representative. It is for diagnostic and repair purposes only, and is not currently used for receiving or playing video content.