



Installing + Configuring

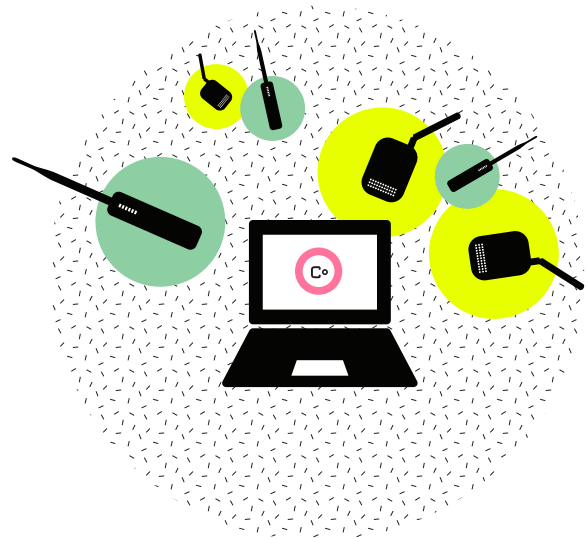
Install and Recover with TFTP

Introduction

This document is designed to help you install the Commotion software if the “**Install on a Ubiquiti Device**” instructions did not work, or if your router has malfunctioning software and needs to be installed again or updated. It contains instructions on using a protocol called Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP) to install the software.

Start these instructions after you have prepared your computer and gathered your supplies, but before you get to installing the software. You will find instructions specific to the operating system you are running on your computer — either Windows, Mac OSX, or Linux. Please proceed to the section for your operating system below.

This process takes longer than the basic instructions. The additional steps on these pages will likely add between a half hour and an hour to the install process.



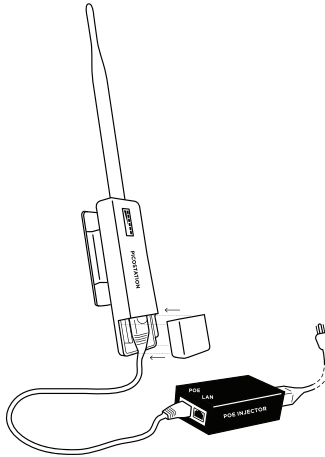
2

Materials + Supplies Needed

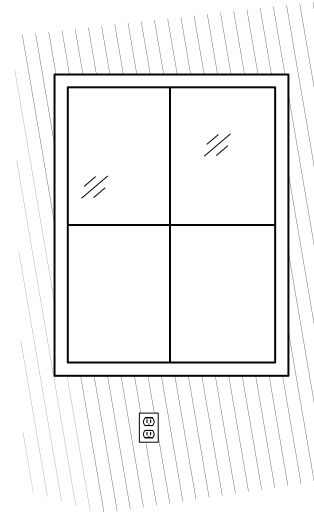
To install Commotion, you will need the following items on-hand:



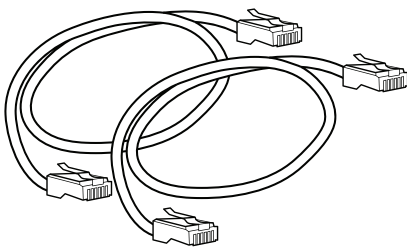
A computer with an Ethernet port



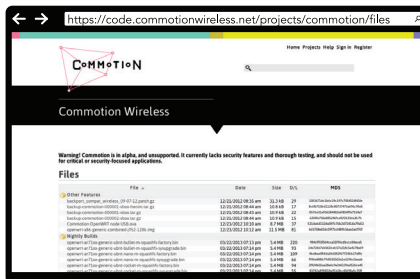
The Commotion-compatible router and its Power over Ethernet (PoE) adapter and power cable



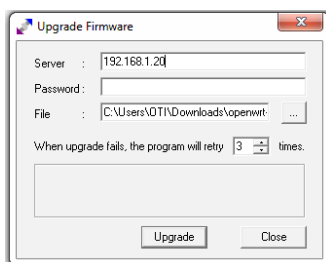
Access to a power outlet



Two Ethernet cables



The correct version of the Commotion software for routers, downloaded to your computer



TFTP Software (optional) downloaded to your computer to simplify the transfer process.



Which Commotion software file you download depends on the router hardware you have, and whether you are installing on a new router or updating an old version of Commotion. For this guide, install the “Factory” software — that is, for a new router.

Open the Commotion Wireless website, and proceed to the Download page, linked from the top bar of the site. From there, select Routers, then find the name of your device in the table. Download the file, and save it somewhere you can access easily later. A good place to save the file is on your Desktop, or in your Downloads directory.

Download link:
<https://commotionwireless.net/download/routers>

Instructions for Windows

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GETTING STARTED

This guide should work with any version of Microsoft Windows from Windows XP to present. If you aren't sure what version of Windows you have, click on the Start Menu and type **winver** into the Run menu or the Search box. The most likely responses are Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Windows 7.

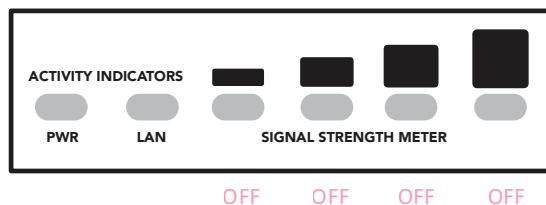
PREPARE YOUR COMPUTER FOR TFTP MODE

There is a command line or a graphical user interface (GUI) option to install the Commotion software onto your router. Both methods are discussed in detail, but we recommend using the GUI method.

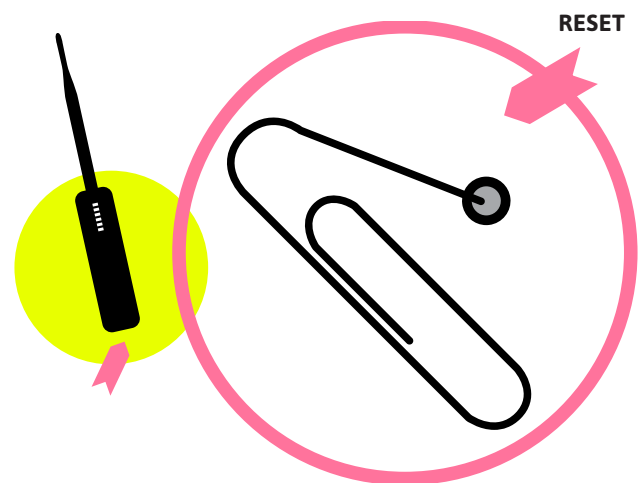
PREPARE THE ROUTER FOR RECOVERY MODE

The Ubiquiti router must be put in a special recovery mode to load files onto it using TFTP. To set the router to recovery mode, it must be powered on with the Reset button pressed, until the status lights flash in a special order. To put your router in recovery mode:

1. If your router is already plugged-in to power, remove the Ethernet cable from the bottom of the router. The lights on the router will go off.



2. Take a paper clip with one end bent out, and gently depress the Reset button on the underside of the wireless router, next to where the Ethernet cable plugs in.

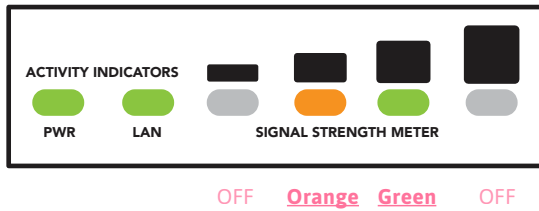


3. While holding the Reset button down, plug in the Ethernet cable, which will power on the router.

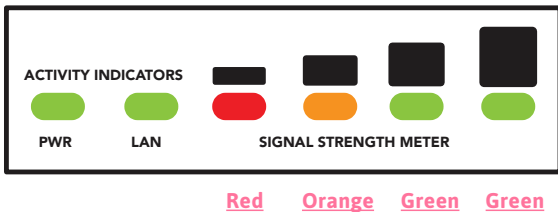
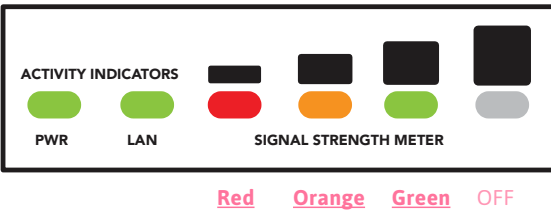
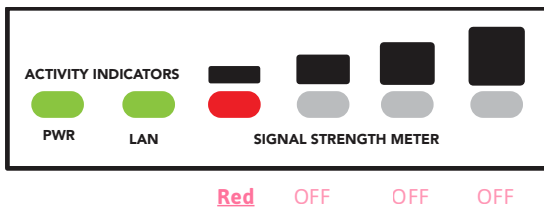
4. While keeping the Reset button held down, watch the lights on the front or back of the unit, depending on the router model. The lights under the triangle will light in a particular pattern, which some have described as a "special dance":

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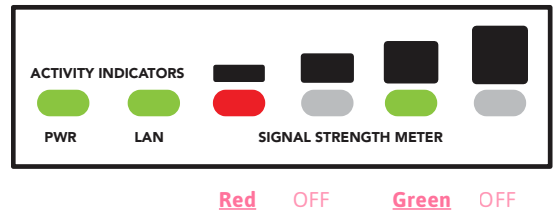
1. The two middle lights, one orange and one green, will light continuously, then go out.



2. The lights from left to right will light up in order: red, orange, green, and green again.



3. The 1st and 3rd will light up, then the 2nd and 4th, over and over.



When this happens, the unit is in TFTP mode. You can release the Reset button at this point. If 30 seconds to a minute passes and the lights do not cooperate, you may need to try again. Unplug the Ethernet cable and start the process again.

Note that the recovery mode is only enabled for a short amount of time. If the router does not accept the software, you will need to restart the Reset button process. Typically you will need to restart if it has been in recovery mode for more than three minutes.

INSTALL THE SOFTWARE ON THE ROUTER

You can either install the Commotion software onto your router with a graphical user interface (GUI) program for TFTP, or by using the command line. We recommend the GUI option if you are new to this process.

Using a GUI Interface

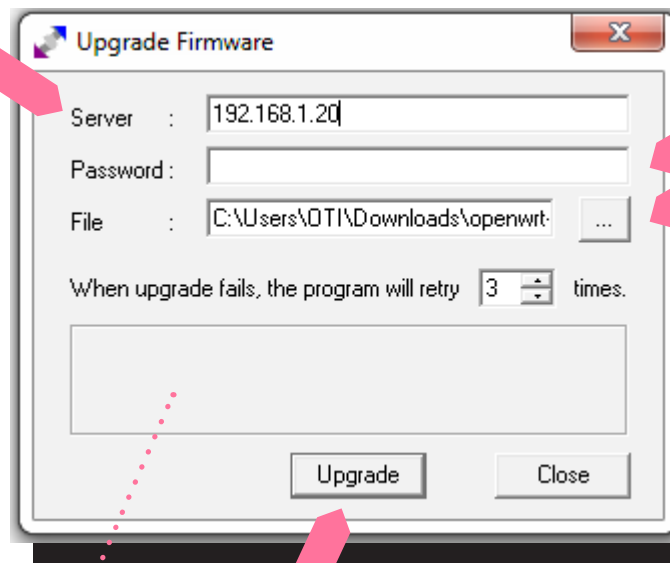
There are a few graphical user interface (GUI) programs to facilitate TFTP transfer on Windows.

This guide discusses TFTP2.

TFTP2

TFTP2 is a very simple TFTP client that includes only the settings necessary to install the software. You can download TFTP2 from www.commotionwireless.net and install the program.

1. Enter 192.168.1.20, the router's IP address, in the "Server" field.



2. Leave the "Password" field blank

3. Open the file browser, navigate to where you downloaded the Commotion software file, and select it.

Firmware was upgraded successfully!
~~Retry (1/3) ...~~

4. Put the router in TFTP mode as described earlier, and immediately click "Upgrade."

5. If your router is ready and the IP addresses are properly configured, a blue progress bar will appear. When it is finished, you will see this screen (ignore the "Retry" line).

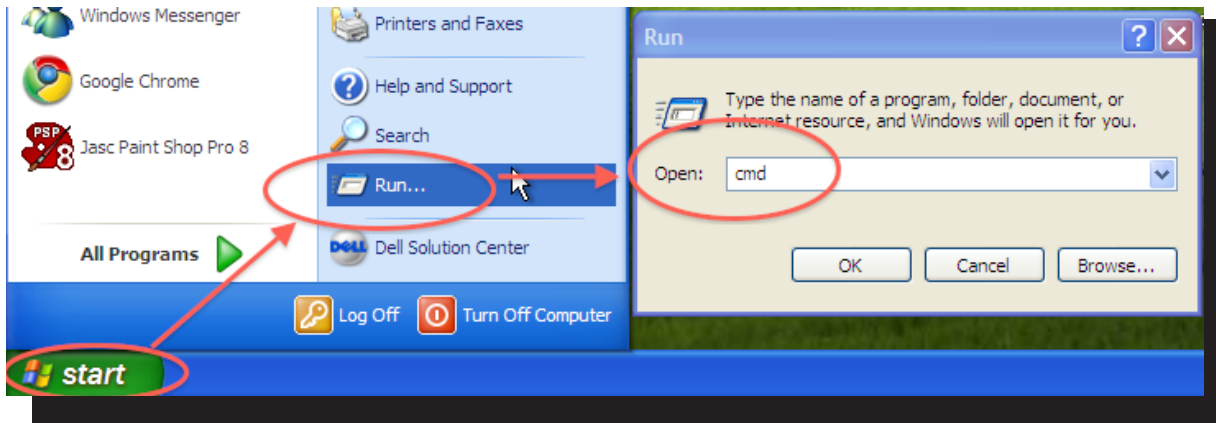


Once you have installed TFTP2, make sure your computer's IP address is set correctly as discussed in ["Install on a Ubiquiti Device."](#) Then, prepare your router and open TFTP2.

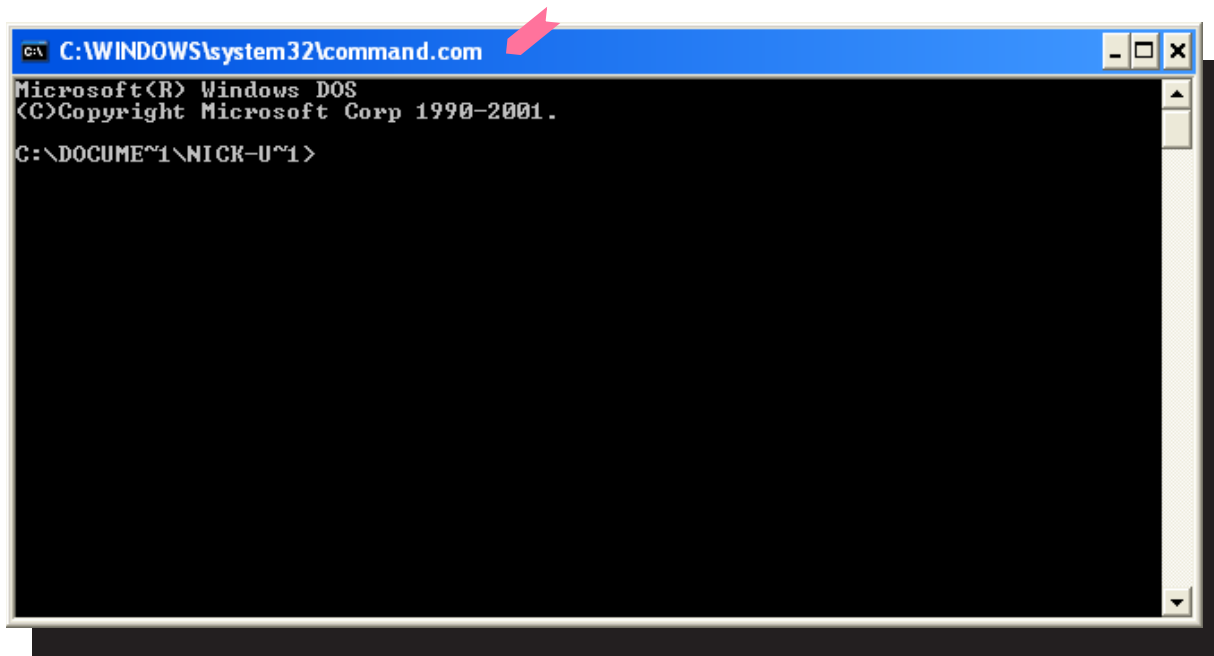
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USING THE COMMAND LINE

Windows XP



This version of Windows has a TFTP client built-in. You will just need to browse to your Command Prompt by clicking the Start Menu, selecting Run, and typing `cmd`.



You should get a window titled `C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe`, or similar.

USING THE COMMAND LINE

Windows XP

This program will give you a text interface to your Windows system, where we can execute the TFTP program. It should look something like:

```
C:\Documents and Settings\your-user-name>
```

First, we need to navigate to the folder where you saved the Commotion image file.

To do that, type in:

```
cd <path-to-the-folder-where-you-saved  
the-file> and hit Enter.
```

This may look something like `cd Desktop` or `cd Downloads` — or something else. If you aren't sure, you can use the Windows Explorer file browser to find the file, and then click in the top address bar. The full directory path should appear. You can then type this in to the Command Prompt after the `cd` command.

Once you are in the proper directory, you can run the TFTP client. You have to type in the command itself, an option to set it to binary, the IP address of the router, and the file name of the image all in one go.



It should look something like this:

```
C:\your\path\tftp -i 192.168.1.20 put  
<exact-name-of-file>.bin
```

The command breaks down in to these parts:

tftp

The name of the actual program we are running

-i

Sets this to binary mode, which is required since we are sending a file and not text.

192.168.1.20

The address of the router we are working on.

put

The command to the TFTP program to send a file from the PC to the device.

<exact-name-of-file>.bin

The Commotion image for the router, as mentioned in the document **“Install on a Ubiquiti Device.”**

Once you have executed that command, there should be some text or a progress indicator that lets you know if the file transferred to the device correctly. If there is an error message, go back and make sure you are in the correct directory, and that you typed everything correctly. You can then return to the **“Install on a Ubiquiti Device”** document and finish installing Commotion.

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USING THE COMMAND LINE

Windows Vista and Windows 7

These versions of Windows don't come with a TFTP client by default, but it can be installed fairly easily in the "Add Windows components" menu. In order to find this menu:

Click the Start Menu, then Control Panel.

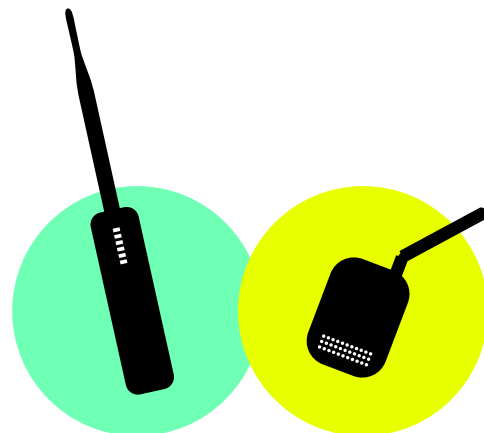
In the window that opens, select the "Programs" option.

There should be an option to "Turn Windows features on or off" — select this.

A "Windows Features" menu should appear — scroll until you see the "TFTP Client" option, then select it and hit Ok or Apply.

The TFTP client should install.

From here, you can use the Windows XP instructions above, since everything should work identically once the client is installed.



Instructions for Mac OSX

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This guide should work with any version of Mac OSX.

PREPARE YOUR COMPUTER FOR TFTP

The Ubiquiti device is listening for a TFTP connection on a specific address. For your computer to connect, it will need an IP address with the following settings:

Static IP address: 192.168.1.254

Subnet mask: 255.255.255.0

Gateway: 192.168.1.1

There is a command line or a graphical user interface (GUI) option to install the Commotion software onto your router. Both methods are discussed in detail, but we recommend using the GUI method. You can download the GUI program MacTFTP Client from <http://mactechnologies.com> and install it on your computer.

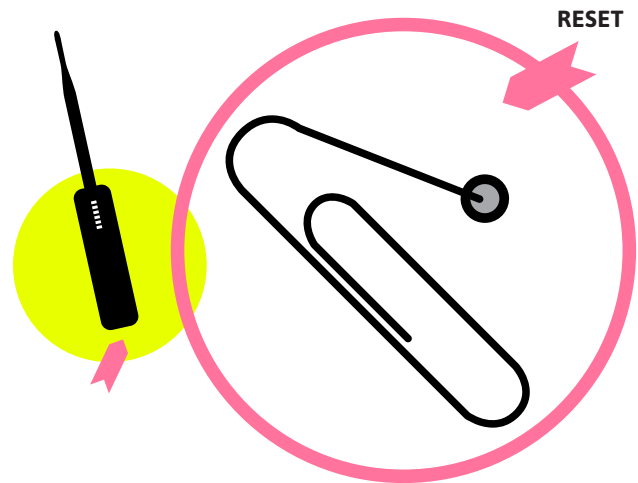
PREPARE THE ROUTER FOR RECOVERY MODE

The Ubiquiti router must be put in a special recovery mode to load files on to it using TFTP. To set the router to recovery mode, it must be powered on with the Reset button pressed, until the status lights flash in a special order. To put your router in recovery mode:

1. If your router is already plugged-in to power, remove the Ethernet cable from the bottom of the router. The lights on the router will go off.

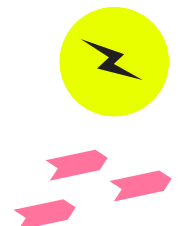
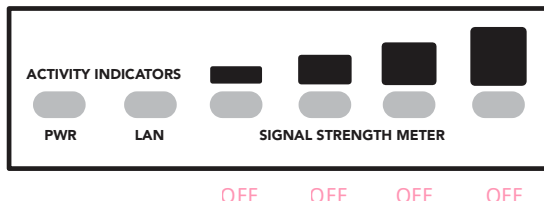
2. Take a paper clip with one end bent out, and gently

depress the Reset button on the underside of the wireless router, next to where the Ethernet cable plugs in.



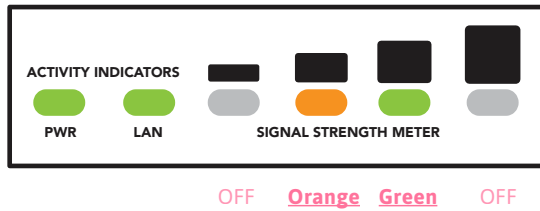
3. While holding the Reset button down, plug in the Ethernet cable, which will power on the router.

4. While keeping the Reset button held down, watch the lights on the front or back of the unit, depending on the router model. The lights under the triangle will do a special dance:

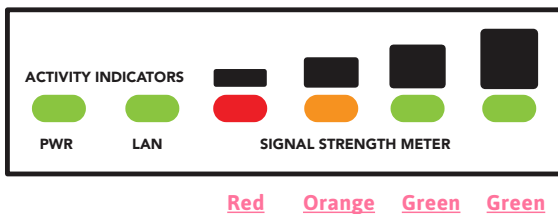
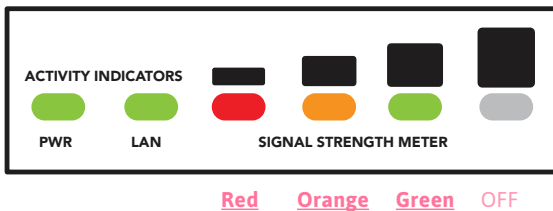
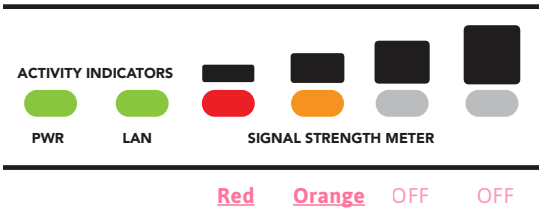
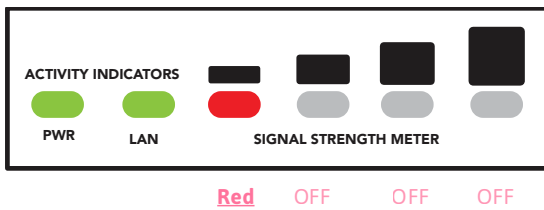


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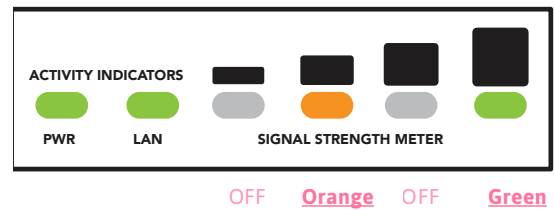
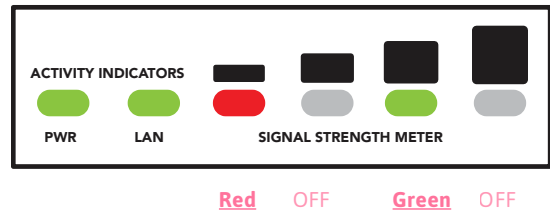
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2. The lights from left to right will light up in order: red, orange, green, and green again.



3. The 1st and 3rd will light up, then the 2nd and 4th, over and over.



When this happens, the unit is in TFTP mode. You can release the Reset button at this point. If 30 seconds to a minute passes and the lights do not cooperate, you may need to try again. Unplug the Ethernet cable and start the process again.

Note that the recovery mode is only enabled for a short amount of time. If the router does not accept the software, you will need to restart the Reset button process. Typically you will need to restart if it has been in recovery mode for more than three minutes.

INSTALL THE SOFTWARE ON THE ROUTER

You can either install the Commotion software onto your router using a graphical user interface (GUI) program for TFTP, or using the command line. We recommend the GUI option if you are new to this process.

Using a GUI Interface

This guide discusses a client called MacTFTP Client by MacTechnologies Consulting.

MacTFTP Client (GUI)

The MacTFTP Client includes only the settings necessary to install the software on a device. You can download it from **mactechnologies.com** and install the program.

Once you have installed MacTFTP Client, make sure your computer's IP address is set correctly as mentioned above in Prepare your Computer for TFTP. Then prepare your router and open the MacTFTP Client.

The screenshot shows the MacTFTP Client window titled "TFTP Send: openwrt-ar71xx-generic...". It features a "Send" button (highlighted in step 1), an "Address" field containing "192.168.1.20" (step 2), a blank "Password" field (step 3), a "File..." button, and a "Start" button (step 5). Below the "File..." button, the filename "openwrt-ar71xx-generic-ubnt-nano-m" is visible. A message box at the bottom left states "Transfer completed successfully".

1. Make sure the "Send" button is highlighted.

2. Enter 192.168.1.20, the router's IP address, in the "Address" field.

3. Leave the "Password" field blank.

4. Open the file browser, navigate to where you downloaded the Commotion image, and select it.

5. Click "Start"

Transfer completed successfully

If your router is ready in TFTP mode and the IP addresses are properly configured, a blue progress bar will appear. When it is finished, you will see this screen.

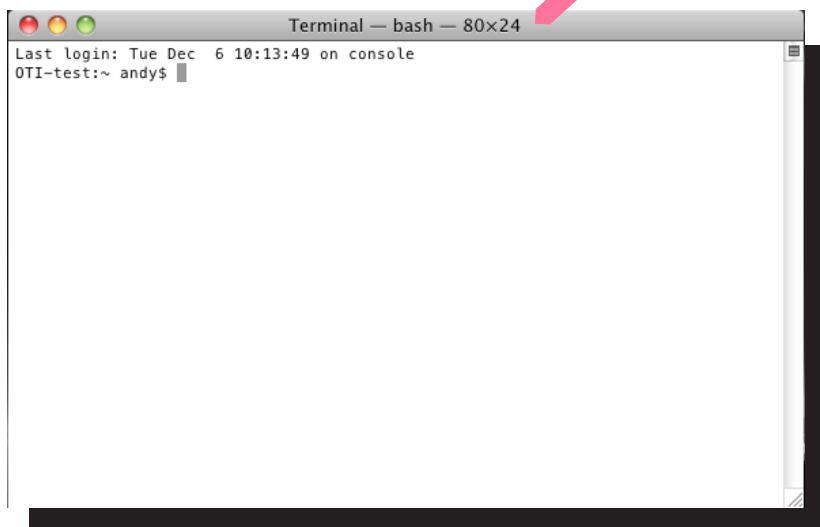
Put the router in TFTP mode, and immediately click Start.

USING THE COMMAND LINE

All versions of Macintosh OSX should have a TFTP client installed. It is accessible from the Terminal program, which is a text-based interface to the OSX system. You can find this program by navigating from the Applications folder to the Utilities folder.



From there, launch the program titled "Terminal." It should open a command line interface titled "Terminal — bash" or something similar.



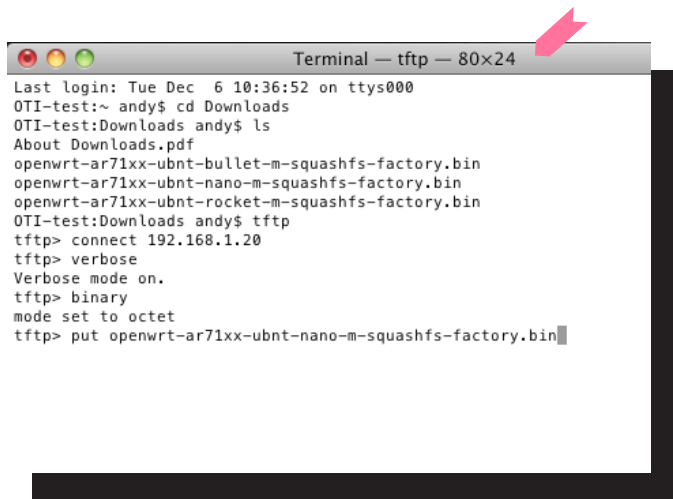
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The window may look different, depending on the version of OSX you are using. You should see a prompt that looks something like:

```
computername:~ username$
```

First, we need to navigate to the folder where you saved the Commotion image file. To do that, type `cd path-to-the-folder-where-you-saved-the-file` and hit Enter.

This may look something like `cd Desktop` or `cd Downloads` — or something else. If you aren't sure, you can use the Finder to browse to the file, and then hit "Command+I". The "Get Info" dialog should appear, where you can find the full path under the General tab, labeled "Where:". You can then type this into the Terminal after the `cd` command. To verify the files are in your current directory, you can type `ls`, which should display a listing of files.

A screenshot of a macOS Terminal window titled "Terminal — tftp — 80x24". The window shows a user named "andy" at a machine named "OTI-test". The user navigates to the "Downloads" directory using the `cd Downloads` command and lists the contents with `ls`. The output shows several files, including "About Downloads.pdf" and three ".bin" files. The user then starts the `tftp` client, connects to 192.168.1.20, sets verbose mode, binary mode, and octet mode, and finally attempts to put a file. A red arrow points to the terminal window.

```
Last login: Tue Dec  6 10:36:52 on ttys000
OTI-test:~ andy$ cd Downloads
OTI-test:Downloads andy$ ls
About Downloads.pdf
openwrt-ar71xx-ubnt-bullet-m-squashfs-factory.bin
openwrt-ar71xx-ubnt-nano-m-squashfs-factory.bin
openwrt-ar71xx-ubnt-rocket-m-squashfs-factory.bin
OTI-test:Downloads andy$ tftp
tftp> connect 192.168.1.20
tftp> verbose
Verbose mode on.
tftp> binary
mode set to octet
tftp> put openwrt-ar71xx-ubnt-nano-m-squashfs-factory.bin
```

Once you are in the proper directory, you can run the TFTP client. To do this, just type `tftp` at the prompt and hit enter. Your command line should change to the following:

```
tftp>
```

From here, enter these commands in sequence:

`connect 192.168.1.20` - Instructs the client to talk to the router.

`verbose` - Instructs the client to provide more detailed reports on what it is doing.

`binary` - Since we are transferring a file, and not text, this is required.

```
put exact-name-of-file.bin
```

You should see some numbers flash by, then a line that states something like `Sent ### bytes in ##.## seconds [### bits per second]`. You can then type `quit` at the prompt, and your terminal will change back to the normal mode.

If there is an error message, go back and make sure you are in the correct directory, and that you typed everything in correctly. You can then return to **"Install on a Ubiquiti Device."**

Instructions for Linux

Depending on your distribution of Linux, you may or may not have a TFTP client installed by default. You can check this at the terminal, and if it turns out you do not TFTP installed, it will be possible to install a client at the terminal, then use it.

First, open the Terminal application:

If you use Gnome as your window manager, you should be able to find a terminal program in the main menu, under Accessories > Terminal.

If you use KDE as your window manager, you should be able to access the terminal program in the KMenu, under System > Konsole.

If you use another window manager, chances are you know how to access the terminal already.

If you aren't sure, or don't have a window manager, just go to a terminal by pressing ALT, CTRL and the number 1 or 2. This should bring up a full screen terminal. You will most likely have to log-in using whatever credentials you first set up on the computer.

From here, you will see a prompt similar to:
`computername:~ $`

Type `which tftp` at this prompt and hit enter. This will return one of two things: the location of the tftp program if you have it installed, or it will return an error.

If you have a tftp client, the output should look like:
`/usr/bin/tftp`

If you don't have one, the output will look something like:
`which: no tftp in (/path...`

If you have a TFTP client installed, you can skip down a few steps. If you don't have one, you will need to install a client before moving on. How you install this is dependent on which distribution of Linux you are using. We will detail the commands to type for the most common distributions below. The commands are shown at the normal prompt we started from above. You will need to know the administrator (root) password you set up when the system was first installed.

Ubuntu:

```
$ sudo aptitude install tftp
```

Debian:

```
$ sudo apt-get install tftp
```

Arch:

```
$ sudo pacman -S tftp-hpa
```

Fedora:

```
$ sudo rpm -i tftp
```

Since we can't cover every distribution of Linux, if you aren't sure how to install the TFTP client package on your computer, use your favorite search engine.

After typing in the correct command for your distribution, you should see a confirmation on the screen that your package was installed. To verify, you can type `which tftp` at the prompt again. If you receive a single path response, as show above, you should be ready.

PREPARE YOUR COMPUTER FOR TFTP

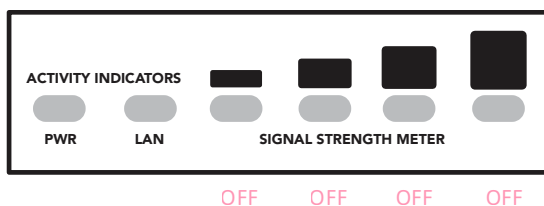
The Ubiquiti device is listening for a TFTP connection from only a single source, or computer with a specific address. You will need to set the IP address of your computer with the following settings:

Static IP address: 192.168.1.254
Subnet mask: 255.255.255.0
Gateway: 192.168.1.1

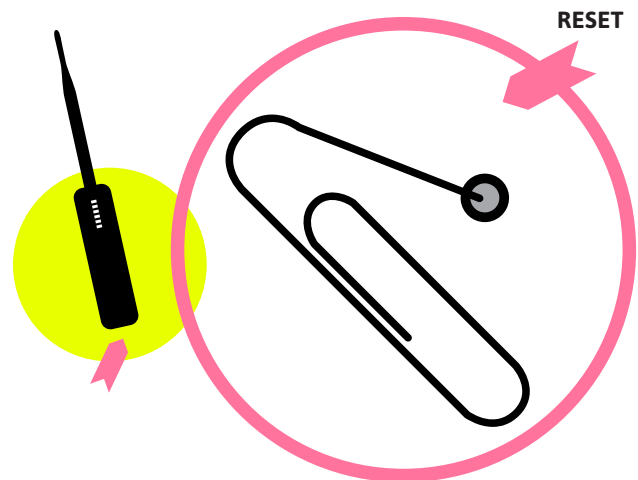
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1. If your router is already plugged-in to power, remove the Ethernet cable from the bottom of the router. The lights on the router will go off.

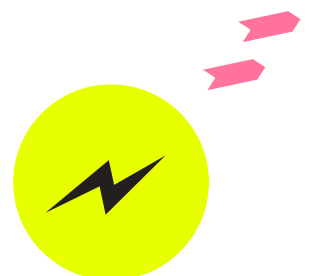


2. Take a paper clip with one end bent out, and gently depress the Reset button on the underside of the wireless router, next to where the Ethernet cable plugs in.



3. While holding the Reset button down, plug in the Ethernet cable, which will power on the router.

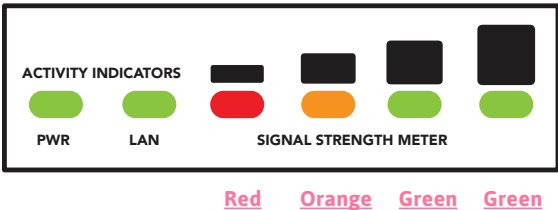
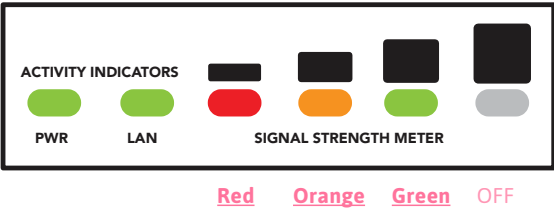
4. While keeping the Reset button held down, watch the lights on the front or back of the unit, depending on the router model. The lights under the triangle will do a special dance:



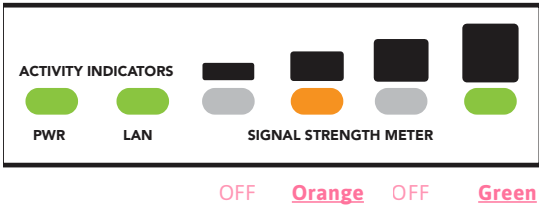
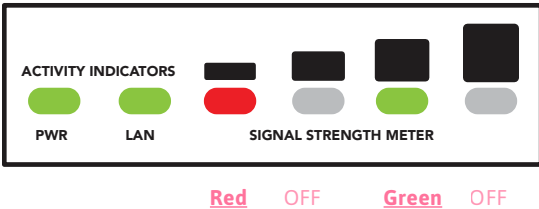
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2. The lights from left to right will light up in order: red, orange, green, and green again.



3. The 1st and 3rd will light up, then the 2nd and 4th, over and over.



When this happens, the unit is in TFTP mode. You can release the Reset button at this point. If 30 seconds to a minute passes and the lights do not cooperate, you may need to try again. Unplug the Ethernet cable and start the process again.

Note that the recovery mode is only enabled for a short amount of time. If the router does not accept the software, you will need to restart the Reset button process. Typically you will need to restart if it has been in recovery mode for more than three minutes.

INSTALL THE SOFTWARE ON THE ROUTER

Now we need to navigate to the folder where you saved the Commotion image file, as mentioned in the document **“Install on a Ubiquiti Device.”**

To do that, type in:

`cd path-to-the-folder-where-you-saved-the-file` and hit Enter.

This may look something like `cd ~/Desktop` or `cd ~/Downloads` — or something else. If you aren’t sure, you can use Nautilus in Gnome to browse to the file, and hit “Control+L”. This should display the path to the directory you are viewing. Using Konqueror in KDE, browse to the file, and then read the path in the top statusbar.

Once you are in the proper directory, you can run the TFTP client. To do this, just type `tftp` at the prompt and hit enter. Some clients will prompt you with a `to` where you should put in the IP address `192.168.1.20`. Your command line should change to the following:

`tftp>`

From here, enter these commands in sequence:

`connect 192.168.1.20` – If you didn’t put it in at the `to` prompt. Instructs the client to talk to the router.

`verbose` – Instructs the client to provide more detailed reports on what it is doing.

`binary` – Since we are transferring a file, and not text, this is required.

`put exact-name-of-file.bin` – The Commotion image for the hardware, as mentioned in the module **“Install on Ubiquiti Router.”**

You should see some numbers flash by, then a line that states something like `Sent ### bytes in ##.## seconds [### bits per second]`. You can then type `quit` at the prompt, and your terminal will change back to the normal mode.

If there is an error message, go back and make sure you are in the correct directory, and that you typed everything correctly. You can then return to **“Install on a Ubiquiti Device”** and finish installing Commotion.

Definitions

TFTP (Trivial File Transfer Protocol): A file transfer protocol notable for its simplicity. It is generally used for automated transfer of configuration or boot files between machines in a local environment.

Firmware: The combination of persistent memory and program code and data stored in it. In other words, a very small and basic operating system for devices like appliances, computers, digital watches, digital cameras, mobile phones, and more.

Related Information

This module is a companion document to **“Install on a Ubiquiti Device.”** It should be consulted for an overview of the process!

External Resources

For Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs) to help with the TFTP process:

Windows: <https://code.commotionwireless.net/attachments/download/272/tftp2.exe>

Mac OSX: <http://www.mactechnologies.com/index.php?page=downloads#tftpclient>

commotionwireless.net

