50 feet apart. To run cable from one building to the other, you'd have to bury conduit — a potentially expensive job. Because the buildings are so close, though, you can probably connect them with a pair of wireless access points that function as a *wireless bridge* between the two networks. Connect one of the access points to the first network and the other access points to the second network. Then configure both APs to use the same SSID and channel.

Ad-hoc networks

A WAP isn't necessary to set up a wireless network. Any time two or more wireless devices come within range of each other, they can link up to form an ad-hoc network. If you and a few of your friends all have notebook computers with wireless adapters, for example, you can meet anywhere and form an ad-hoc network.

All the computers within range of one another in an ad-hoc network are an *Independent Basic Service Set* (IBSS).

Configuring a Wireless Access Point

The physical setup for a wireless access point is pretty simple: You take it out of the box, put it on a shelf or on top of a bookcase near a network jack and a power outlet, plug in the power cable, and plug in the network cable.

The software configuration for an access is a little more involved but still not very complicated. It's usually done via a web interface. To get to the configuration page for the access, you need to know its IP address. Then you just type that address in the address bar of a browser on any computer on the network.

Multifunction access points usually provide DHCP and NAT services for the networks and double as the network's gateway router. As a result, they typically have a private IP address that's either at the beginning of one of the Internet's private IP address ranges, typically `192.168.0.1` or `10.0.0.1`. Consult the documentation that came with the AP to find out more.


TIP

If you use a multifunction AP that serves as both your wireless AP and your Internet router, and you can't remember the IP address, run the `IPCONFIG` command at a command prompt on any computer on the network. The Default Gateway IP address should be the IP address of the access point.