

Xirrus Wi-Fi Monitor Gadget for Windows Vista Guide

Version 1.0

Description

The Xirrus Wi-Fi Monitor is a free gadget utility for Windows Vista systems. Gadgets are simple, mini-applications that run on the Vista desktop and provide easy access to commonly used information and tools. The Xirrus Wi-Fi Monitor gadget provides at a glance access to information about Wi-Fi adapters, connections, and the surrounding environment. It provides a useful tool for end users and IT managers deploying and operating Wi-Fi.

Applications

The Wi-Fi Monitor gadget can be used for a number of practical applications, including:

- Display laptop wireless settings
- Search for local Wi-Fi networks
- Verify Wi-Fi coverage (simple site survey)
- Verify AP settings
- Detect rogue APs
- Aiming Wi-Fi antennas

Features

- At-a-glance graphical view of available Wi-Fi networks and relative distance
- Display of Wi-Fi adapter IP and MAC address
- Current connection signal strength with 5 minute history
- Detailed network settings – SSID, channel, security, type, etc.
- Support for multiple adapters
- Summary view when on sidebar, expanded view when operating on desktop



Installation

1. Download the gadget from either the Xirrus or Microsoft web sites (see Updates section below).
2. Double click on the .zip file view its contents
3. Double click on the .gadget file to install.
4. Select "Install" on the Window Sidebar – Security Warning dialog that appears.

5. The gadget should install directly into the sidebar panel on your Windows Vista desktop. If not, see Known Issues section below.

Operation

1. Sidebar: When on the sidebar, the gadget displays Wi-Fi network names (SSIDs) on the sweeping radar display, currently connected SSID, IP address, and signal strength.
2. Desktop: Drag/drop the gadget from the sidebar to your desktop. The gadget will change to an expanded view with additional details, including adapter MAC address, channel, BSSID, and a 5 minute signal history graph. Information is divided into Adapter and Connection sections.
3. Fly Out: In both sidebar and desktop modes, selecting "Show Details" opens up a fly out window. More detailed information about your adapter is displayed at top. A table of available networks is listed below with the currently connected network (SSID) highlighted in orange. Selecting the Statistics tab provides current stats for the adapter. The Terminology tab provides definitions for different Wi-Fi terms.
4. Settings: Moving your mouse in the upper right hand corner of the gadget (in both Sidebar and Desktop modes) opens up a Settings window. This window allows you to select the Wi-Fi adapter used to display on the main gadget face when more than one adapter is present on the system. Several other settings are also available.

Tips

1. Disable the Radar Sweep on the Settings window to reduce CPU utilization.
2. Click column headers on columns in the fly out window to sort by that item.
3. Click on the adapter name in the fly out window to expand/contract the view of its information.
4. Detect ad hocs using the Network Type column in the Available Networks table on the fly out. This column will display APs as Infrastructure and ad hocs as ad hocs.

Known Issues

Following are known issues with this version of the Wi-Fi Monitor gadget:

1. The gadget will not connect to the Wi-Fi adapter if Vista "User Account Control" is disabled. To correct this, go to Control Panel -> User Accounts -> Turn User Account Control on or off. Enable the feature, then reboot.
2. The gadget will not correctly attach to the Wi-Fi adapter when running Norton Internet Security 2008 at the same time.

Updates

The Xirrus Wi-Fi Monitor gadget may be updated periodically with new features and fixes. The latest gadget versions are posted for free download from:

1. Xirrus website, Cool Tools page: <http://www.xirrus.com/library/wifitools.html>
2. Microsoft Windows Live Gallery: <http://gallery.live.com>, search for "Xirrus".

Support/Feedback

The Wi-Fi Monitor gadget is a free tool, and as such does not come with a guarantee of support. However, we welcome feedback about our gadgets. Send email to gadget@xirrus.com or use the review feature or troubleshoot forum on the Windows Live Gallery site.