

the video camera age  
is turned mutual  
surveillance into a  
debby... we had better  
not used to all this

Keegan, page 4

technologyguardian



## You've got the power!

Some friends have asked me about the best way to connect an Xbox to the home broadband connection. From personal experience, HomePlug 14Mbps powerline network adaptors (eg Devolo or eConnect) are the most reliable and cost-effective way of doing this, but the likes of PC World say they have never even heard of this technology! Do the big companies have a vested interest in flogging Wi-Fi, or are they just technologically ignorant?

Mike Whittaker

**Jack Schofield replies:** The idea of connecting devices via mains electricity cables goes back to the 1970s – for example, see [tinyurl.com/yeshkx](http://tinyurl.com/yeshkx) – but it has never really taken off. The HomePlug Powerline Alliance was intended to solve this problem by providing an agreed trade standard on the lines of the Wi-Fi Alliance. However, so far the response from retailers, including Amazon, has been disappointing, and there are not enough users for the “word of mouth” effect to have had an impact. Like you, I think a couple of HomePlugs would be a good way to connect an Xbox, but I've not seen it done, and don't know anyone who has done it. Reader comments would be welcome.

As well as Devolo ([devolo.co.uk](http://devolo.co.uk)) and eConnect ([econnecthomeplug.co.uk](http://econnecthomeplug.co.uk)), Solwise is also worth a look, and sells HomePlugs from its website ([solwise.co.uk](http://solwise.co.uk)). Many cheap HomePlug devices have no problems interconnecting and often use the same Intellon chips and software. (Intellon developed the HomePlug standard.) Faster devices are available up to 200Mbps, but 14Mbps

is fast enough for broadband, and will probably run faster than Wi-Fi.

## Stuttering YouTube

A number of clips I watch on YouTube keep pausing for a few seconds.  
Clive Gorst

**JS:** YouTube and other streaming videos should play smoothly if your internet connection downloads the video data faster than it is displayed. If the replay stutters, hit the pause button for a few seconds until more of the video has been downloaded – on YouTube, until the red download line is ahead of the black circle that shows where you are. Alternatively, you can let the whole video download before you watch it, or download it separately via a site such as KeepVid ([keepvid.com](http://keepvid.com)). However, some broadband routers have known problems with buffering, and if this is the case, you'll need a firmware update.

## Trend Micro not calling

I've tried several times in the past couple of years to use Housecall, Trend Micro's online virus scan, but it never works. It gives an error message to do with the kernel and just goes nowhere. How do I get it to work?  
Chris Hernon

**JS:** Housecall has worked hundreds of millions of times, and if it doesn't work, I suspect that is most often because a PC has a virus or Trojan. Housecall 6.5 now has two options – a browser-based ActiveX control and a Java applet – so try

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