

Re: Planning Ahead

Source:

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- *From:* Mike R. <MikeR@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 8 Aug 2006 13:37:02 -0700
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My goodness it's a miracle nobody was injured with all that happened... and then you moved?

And here I thought our adventures in building this house so far were something... they were mostly to do with the foundation and excavation because the house has lake frontage and is on a hill. We played architect/engineer ping-pong for 4 months or so. Once things got moving, they had to rip out about 60 feet or so of footing (wrong elevation) and it took forever (it seemed) to get all the filling and back filling done.

It's been quite an adventure, and now it's to the point of looking like a house. It's to the point of doing wiring, and I want to make sure all the MCE wiring (which will be simply CAT(5e or 6) cable gets done and maybe some speaker wiring done. The hardest part of this now is to decide where the stereo will physically be located, although with the setup you had, it sounded like it didn't matter... it all came from one point, and could be pumped there from 'wherever'.

"Dana Cline - MVP" wrote:

No, I wasn't home...the wife and I were out at dinner, but all 4 kids were home. My oldest son called our cell phone and said lightning had struck the house. I figured he was wrong, that maybe it just struck really close, so I told him he was a Boy Scout and should check for fire and do what was necessary. My younger son called a few minutes later from the neighbors and said the house was on fire so we should come home. Of course, the traffic lights were out all the way home, so it took us a while. Fortunately the fire was confined to the attic, so there was no fire damage to the Stuff. Unfortunately, they put several hundred gallons of water in the attic, and an hour later the high ceiling over the living room collapsed, burying everything in a foot of soggy burned insulation (and sheetrock bits). And narrowly missed my wife and neighbor who were helping to put buckets under the leaks...

And if you think this is a tale, it gets better. They condemned the house because the rafters were burned, so the insurance company moved all our stuff into storage while it was being rebuilt. The day they took the roof

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off to replace the rafters, it started raining and they left for the day. Several rainy hours later, I found that all the smoke alarms were going off (I guess they do that when they get wet) and light fixtures were filling with water. Fortunately I got there in time and switched off all the power. The sheetrock all got soaked, so the construction company had to basically strip the whole house down to bare studs and rebuild (at their expense, fortunately, as I had the whole day on video via my webcam). It took them longer to rebuild the house than it did for the initial construction.

Needless to say, it's not something I want to have repeated...

Dana Cline – MCE MVP

"Mike R." <MikeR@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:9180BBFF-E056-4EDA-A192-DC7B38ECC534@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Ouch! Hopefully you weren't home when it struck... I know it would've startled me a bit. Luckily all our outside wires and cables are underground, although that's no guarantee they won't get hit, or that someplace above ground won't get hit and travel.

I've noticed that some stores are not designating routers as 'Pre N' anymore, just 'N', and I don't really know if the 'N' is for real yet (not 'Pre'). I'm sure that the extenders wouldn't use 'N' as long as it's still in the 'Pre' state. I'm going to try and 'Pre' think about all the places I might want a TV/Movie signal and hopefully won't need to use the wireless capability... although having it sure does take the pressure off having to get it exact.

"Dana Cline – MVP" wrote:

Actually, we built that house in 98 and moved out in 2004, so it never had a Media Center in it. If it had, I would have used a wired extender to bring it to at least the living room.

I don't think any current extenders do pre-N, and have not heard any specs for the Vista extenders. I'd be a bit surprised if they used pre-N as it's not quite a standard yet...

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If I were to do it all over, I'm not sure if I'd run the cables thru the attic or not. In 2001 the house was hit by lightning... it entered thru the roof over the master bedroom and immediately went into the wiring. Fried network cards and modem cards in all the PCs, as well as frying the TVs thru the video cables. AC surge suppressors worked great, but the damage came thru the network, video, and phone wiring. Most larger surge suppressors these days include phone and video connections, but network surge suppressors are a bit more expensive (and you need one on each end of a given piece of cable).

Of course, it could have been a fluke, probably will never happen to you <g>.

Dana Cline – MCE MVP

"Mike R." <MikeR@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:A14B301D-0560-440C-8525-BF9D5A4BB176@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thanks. Your setup sounds great and it's the same idea as what I'm thinking of doing. Am I right in assuming that the distribution center itself is fed by MCE (via an extender maybe) and it takes care of distribution from there?

Is there anything you didn't do or forgot to do that you wished you did?

Right now, I just want to get all the wiring in the walls and have them all together at some point in the basement. Once that's done, it should be

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fairly straightforward to hook equipment up.

From the looks of the capabilities of the CAT6 cable, that will probably be what I'll put in.

"Dana Cline – MVP" wrote:

Cat5e should be fine for what you want, although there's a new cable type (Cat6?) that includes 2 coax and 2 that can be used for either network or phone. I'd offer a suggestion based on the house we built in Colorado in 98... Pick a spot (ours was in basement under the stairs) for all the cables to terminate. Our phone and cable came into the house, went under the stairs. Each room had network, 2 video, and phone to all rooms. I had a video distribution amp there that fed video to all rooms, and a 16-port network switch that fed network to all rooms (and a phone splitter punchdown panel too). The family server and laser jet also resided under the stairs. It was a very practical arrangement.

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With that second rf cable, I could send video _to_ the distribution center, such as from a security camera...you can even send composite video (which my cameras output) over a rf cable if you have the right connector...

All cables to the 1st floor went thru the basement ceiling then up into the 1st floor walls. All cables to the second floor went up to the attic, then dropped down into the 2nd floor walls. So it helped that we had a passage, about 1 square foot, that went all the way from basement to attic, so we could run more cables if necessary, or even hot water pipes if we ever installed solar heat panels on the roof (and big tanks in the basement).

Dana Cline – MCE MVP

"Mike R."

<MikeR@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

news:0395FC47-3664-4025-853B-1F586D27F170@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I know that currently there aren't a lot of (if any) HDTV tuners or

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extenders
available
for MCE,
but I'm
building a
house and
want to
make sure
the
cabling
will be
sufficient to
handle
sending
HDTV
signals to
and
extender.
Will
CAT5e
cabling
have
enough
capacity, or
should I get
something
'bigger'?
Also,
will
a Linksys
WRT54G
be enough
to handle
the signal?
Thanks.