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Appendix 5: DHCP Settings

Internet Protocol (IP) addresses are used to facilitate communication between equipment within a network. Each piece of equipment on a network has a unique IP address. These addresses are maintained in a list on a server (a computer that manages information traffic throughout a network). The list has both static (non-changing) and dynamic (varying) IP addresses. Those that are static do not change and can be used by Web servers that require a permanent connection to the Internet. Those that are dynamic are assigned as needed to allow communication between equipment or servers on the network. Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) lets Network Administrators manage an organization?s network centrally and automate the assignment of IP addresses using the internet protocol TCP/IP. DHCP supports the management of IP addresses and internet traffic by:

Automatically assigning an IP address to a computer if it moves to another location on the network. If DHCP didn't exist the new IP address would have to be manually configured.

Allowing a Network Administrator to supervise and distribute IP addresses from a central point? automatically sending a new IP address when a computer is plugged into a different place in the network.

Lease Time for an IP Address

DHCP uses the concept of a ?lease? or an amount of time that a given IP address will be valid for a computer. The lease time can vary depending on how long a user is likely to require the Internet connection at a particular location. DHCP is especially useful in education and other environments where network users change frequently. In these settings, by using very short leases, DHCP can dynamically reconfigure networks in which there are more computers than there are available IP addresses.

Determining/Viewing DHCP Settings on a Linksys? Router

STEPS:

1. **Log into the router** using the router?s IP address (e.g., 192.168.1.1).
2. Enter a **Username** and **Password** at the Login page.
3. Click the **Advanced Tab** and **DHCP**.

Tips for Understanding the IP Address List

Listed below are some tips that explain the DHCP Settings:

- The starting IP address determines the first IP that will be auto assigned by the router (e.g., 192.168.1.100).
- The number of DHCP users determines the amount of auto assigned IP addresses that can be generated (e.g., 50).
- In a scenario with 50 users, "http://wiki.ipitomy.com192.168.1.49"http://wiki.ipitomy.com would be the last auto assigned IP address in the pool.
- To set an IP address outside the DHCP pool, statically assign the system to a number beyond the pool (e.g., 192.168.1.249).