

protocol is the allowance for quality of service (QoS) to further enhance its use in business. This allows a reseller to guarantee a certain level of service. Of course, you might just buy space on such a network from any of the vendors putting WMANs in place. For example, in Portland, Oregon, VeriLAN Inc. (www.VerilAN.com) began offering such a service in 2004.

One newer standard includes 802.20, providing connectivity speeds of up to 1 Mbps for vehicular traffic traveling at speeds of up to 250 kilometers (155 miles) per hour. This is cool: Not only can you illegally speed down the highway, but you can interface with a wireless network while doing it. Of course, I suspect the police are more interested in this particular band.

Using Wireless Networks

Using a wireless network takes a number of components and some fairly critical thinking up front before allowing anyone to connect. We discuss these components in the next few sections.

Accessing networks

You need tools to access a wireless network. You also need to be aware of the distances and transmission speeds you want to use in order to choose the correct technology. To quickly summarize, there are a number of competing wireless standards to consider. Table 1-2 covers the more popular ones.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>What It Means</i>
802.11a	54 Mbps speed in the 5 GHz band.
802.11b	11 Mbps transmission in the 2.4 GHz band.
802.11g	54 Mbps; remains backward-compatible with 802.11b.
802.15	Personal Area Network standard. Bluetooth is the typical name.

Many other standards exist. You can find a list of them all in Appendix B, but the ones covered in Table 1-2 are the current popular ones. To use them, your network card must support that standard, along with, of course, your wireless access point. After you add a wireless network card to your machine or PDA, you are off to the races and can enjoy mobility while remaining connected to your network.