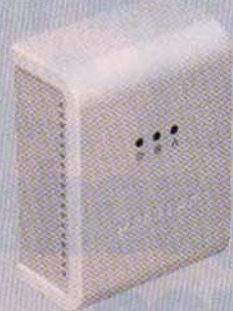


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IN A BIG WAY

Powerline Networking

Powerline networking has played second fiddle to wireless networking for years. In true plug-and-play form, powerline devices use your existing electrical outlets and wiring to extend your Ethernet network. Although easy to use, older powerline products have a comparatively slow maximum speed of 14 megabits per second (much slower if you turned on a hair dryer), and they tether laptop users to the nearest outlet. But a new generation of powerline products can stream data at up to 200Mbps—fast enough for four hi-def video streams. Netgear's new Powerline HD Ethernet Adapter (\$250 for a two-adapter system; additional adapters cost \$130) is based on the OPERA standard. Products based on the HomePlug AV standard (which is, you guessed it, incompatible) should arrive later this year. In our tests, the electrical-interference slowdowns seemed to have been worked out, making powerline a faster, more reliable way to stream video than even next-gen wireless equipment. — Erin Scottberg



Netgear's
Powerline HD
Ethernet Adapter

Motorola RAZR. Mail-in rebates are already a hassle, but a look at the fine print reveals that you aren't eligible for this particular rebate until you've used T-Mobile's service for 181 consecutive days—six months!

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the above case, rebates put the final price of the phone at *minus* \$100. You'll make money by purchasing the phone. But considering you'll have to have the service for six months to qualify (and your contract—which must be at least \$39.99 per month to qualify—will last at least a year),

these deep discounts aren't going to net you a bunch of free phones to turn around on eBay. **PM**



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