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## General

**This article describes how to do an initial flash or a TFTP recovery flash for your device.**

- Make sure you have a TFTP client installed on your PC (see [TFTP tools](#) below)
- Connect your PC to one of the router's LAN ports using an ethernet cable
- Make sure that your PC has a fixed IP address in the same network as your router, e.g. Router: 192.168.1.1, PC: 192.168.1.2 ([example w/picture](#))
- Get the latest DD-WRT release [here](#) (please use the mini version for devices with 4 MB flash and the micro version for 2 MB flash devices). Use the [supported hardware](#) database to find the recommended files for your router.
- Read about **timing problems** below: [TFTP flash#Special for Vista, Win7 and Win 2008](#)

## Special Asus TFTP Flashing Procedures

Some routers like the Asus WL-500xx series (WL-500G, WL-500G Premium, WL-500W, WL-500G Deluxe), need additional steps to perform a complete and proper initial flash. See this wiki page: [Asus TFTP Flash](#)

## Special for Vista, Win7 and Win 2008

In order to catch the narrow window for TFTP flash, you should use platforms with simple TCP/IP implementations that don't have CTCP implemented: Windows XP or Linux are reported to work, but some have reported significant problems with Vista, Windows 7 or Windows 2008.

- For more information see this [posting](#)

Edit: While some may have reported problems, CTCP is definitely not the issue, because it is disabled by default in Windows Vista and Windows 7. So unless people are specifically turning it on, it isn't running. I personally just used TFTP on my router with no difficulties, although mine is a Netgear WNDR3700 that was waiting for a TFTP flash and didn't have this race condition at boot as some of these routers seem to. But again, even if you have an issue it's not CTCP. Check out the wikipedia article on CTCP for information on how to check if it is running and how to disable it (both are simple command line entries).

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02-02-2011: trying to tftp using windows 7 is problematic because of the small window of opportunity available at time of router booting up. After experiencing this problem trying to flash a wrt54g v5, here is what I did. Just connect a separate network switch between your PC and router that way your PC thinks its connected already. Then just follow the rest of the instructions found on this page and you will be fine. You can even test this by pinging the router's ip address and when you plug in the router, you should see a reply faster than just connecting your PC directly to the router.

## Special for Linksys WRT54GL Users

If the router seems to be bricked so that the power light is constantly blinking and pinging the router results in TLL=100 continuously, then there is still a great chance that tftp can help. Firstly you must flash the router with the original firmware available at Linksys homepage [www.linksys.com](http://www.linksys.com), since flashing it with DD-WRT probably won't give any result at all. Then do a 30/30/30 and after that you can flash with DD-WRT Mini. The initial flashing can be done with only the mini version, perhaps later you can move on to bigger versions of it.

## TFTP Tools

With TFTP, all of the information about the transfer is specified during the initial command/setup; there is very little client/server interaction compared with standard FTP.

## Windows

- Windows XP command line TFTP: TFTP client is by default enabled

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- Vista and Win7 command line TFTP: You need to enable it in Control Panel -> Programs and Features -> Windows Features -> check mark: TFTP Client
- Windows GUI TFTP utilities:
  - ◇ Simple Windows GUI TFTP Utility (tftp2.exe)
    - The server/IP address is that of the router being flashed.
    - Leave the password blank.
    - Navigate and select the firmware you wish to flash.
    - Set retries to a number between 10 and 99.
  - ◇ No-nonsense open source TFTP tool, Tftpd32 includes TFTP client as well as DHCP, TFTP, SNTp and syslog servers

## Linux

- Ubuntu: install TFTP client with command `sudo apt-get install tftp`
- ATFTP: See install details for several different Linux flavors Using atftp on Linux as well as usage description and example below.

## Mac OS X

- OS X ships with a command-line TFTP client.

```
connect 192.168.1.1
```

```
binary
rexmt 1
timeout 60
put dd-wrt.vXX_XXX.XXX
```

## Windows

### Command Line

The following example is for a Belkin f5d130uk after a bricked update... NOTE: they already have a bootloader built in, no need for redboot...

- ping the router permanently, by running in Start > Run:

```
ping -t 192.168.2.1 -t
```

and see if it is responding, e.g. like this

```
64 bytes from 192.168.2.1: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=2.90 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.2.1: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=0.264 ms
```

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```
64 bytes from 192.168.2.1: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=1.44 ms
```

- reboot the router via web-if or powercycle (the ping response will stop)
- if you see the the first ping response again ...

```
From 192.168.2.1 icmp_seq=1 Destination Host Unreachable
From 192.168.2.1 icmp_seq=2 Destination Host Unreachable
64 bytes from 192.168.2.1: icmp_seq=3 ttl=128 time=2.90 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.2.1: icmp_seq=4 ttl=128 time=3.50 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.2.1: icmp_seq=5 ttl=128 time=0.90 ms
```

... you will have to start the tftp upload in **binary mode** immediately after the first pings responses. The TTL of the boot tftp server will be 100 or 128. It usually does 5 pings responses, after that it will boot the firmware in flash, this is the right time to flash (the TTL of DD-WRT is only 64). If the upload doesn't work the first time, then you have to try the first steps again. you have to be very fast! ;-) Maybe you will have to reset the device via reset button a few times to get the tftp boot working (Siemens, Belkin and similar hardware).

```
tftp -i 192.168.2.1 put dd-wrt.vXX_XXX.XXX
```

- wait a few seconds (be patient! don't reset the router! keep waiting!) when the upload is successful, change your computer's IP address to 192.168.1.10, and the router will start responding at 192.168.1.1 with DD-WRT
- user name: *root*, password: *admin*
- always do a hardware factory reset after the successful flashing!

## Linksys TFTP GUI

Linksys has a GUI flash utility

### Special for Vista, Win7 and Win 2008

In order to catch the narrow window for TFTP flash, you should use platforms with simple TCP/IP implementations that don't have CTCP implemented: Windows XP or Linux are reported to work, but some have reported significant problems with Vista, Win7 or W2K8.

◇ For more information see this [posting](#)

Here are the setup and use instructions for the TFTP utility. Both the Linksys original and a Linksys updated copy can be found here [TFTP](#)

1. Set your computer hardware adapter to a static IP address within the same subnet as the router's original firmware (ex...set a static of 192.168.11.10 if your router's default IP address is 192.168.11.1). Set the net mask to 255.255.255.0.
2. Start the TFTP utility.
  - ◆ The Server/IP address is that of the router being flashed.
  - ◆ Leave the password blank.
  - ◆ Navigate and select the firmware you wish to flash.
  - ◆ Set retries to 10.
3. Now plug the ethernet cable from your computer into a LAN port of the router.
4. Unplug the router, plug it back in, and immediately hit the Upgrade button on the TFTP utility.

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- ◆ If the router does not flash immediately stop the attempts and vary the timing from when you plug the unit in to the time you hit the start button. I have had good luck flashing within the first 1/2 second of reapplying powering the device.
  - ◆ Tip: ping the router continuously. Start > Run > *ping -t 192.168.x.x -w 10*. Power cycle the router (or tap the reset button) then press Upgrade as soon as you get the first ping reply.
5. Once it flashes and you receive the Success message. Wait for a full 2 minutes while the new firmware flash configures itself. **DO NOT power down the router!**
  6. After the 2 minutes do a Hard reset or 30/30/30 on the router, then configure at 192.168.1.1 (DD-WRT's default IP address). The default DD-WRT username/password is root/admin.

## Mac OS X

OS X ships with a command-line TFTP client.

First, download the firmware file and put it in your user folder (/Users/yourusername/).

Then connect your computer directly to your router via ethernet. Go to System Preferences > Network. Click on "Ethernet" in the left panel and change "Configure IPv4" to "Manually". Then change "IP address" to 192.168.1.x (where x is any number between 2 & 255).

Then copy & paste the following text into a text editor:

```
connect 192.168.1.1
binary
rexmt 1
timeout 60
put dd-wrt.vXX_XXX.XXX
```

Change the last line to the filename of the firmware file, which you just moved to your user folder. Copy the whole thing, including the line break after the last line.

Now open Applications > Utilities > Terminal. Enter:

```
tftp
```

A "tftp>" command prompt will appear. Now press the reset button on your router. On the tftp command line in Terminal, paste (Cmd+v) the text you copied. Since you copied the line break at the end, tftp will execute the command at the moment you paste it. Depending on your router, you may have to paste it multiple times to get the timing right.

If it works, you'll see something like this:

```
tftp> connect 192.168.1.1
tftp> binary
tftp> rexmt 1
tftp> timeout 60
tftp> put dd-wrt.vXX_XXX.XXX
Sent 1769472 bytes in 9.0 seconds
```

## Linux

In Linux, tftp can generally be installed with whatever package manager your distribution uses.

on suse:

```
smart install tftp
```

on fedora:

```
yum install tftp
```

on ubuntu

```
sudo apt-get install tftp
```

etc.

The tftp client for Linux and OS X is very similar. When invoked, it gives the user a prompt and takes commands from the standard input.

Binary mode can be set with command-line flags - in OS X, the "-e" flag sets binary mode (among other things which are less important), and in Linux "-m binary". Binary can be set from the prompt in either (this is done below for consistency).

Typical usage looks like:

```
tftp 192.168.x.x
> binary
> put dd-wrt.vXX_XXX.XXX
```

Because the transfer must be initiated in a narrow time window during the router's bootup, tftp's retransmit option is useful. In the following sequence of commands, tftp will retry to send the file every second for one minute. This can be issued just before the router is booted, so that it will retry to send every second while the router boots.

```
tftp 192.168.x.x
> binary
> rexmt 1
> timeout 60
> put dd-wrt.vXX_XXX.XXX
```

If it worked, it will say something like "Sent 1769472 bytes in 9.0 seconds"

If it didn't work, it will say "Transfer timed out." This is often because it cannot connect to the IP address. Make sure you have manually set your computer's IP address to one in the router's subnet.

You can quit tftp with the 'quit' command or hitting ctrl+D.

Many Linksys routers require a special version of tftp that has a simple form of authentication. You can download and compile a special version of tftp that works on these routers from: <http://redsand.net/projects/linksys-tftp/linksys-tftp.php> (you will need to unpack the tarball and compile the

program)

## Using atftp on Linux

Another way of doing this is using *atftp*. You can install atftp by search it in your package manager.

On Ubuntu:

```
sudo aptitude install atftp
```

On Debian (as root):

```
aptitude install atftp
```

On Fedora (as root):

```
yum install atftp
```

On Suse (as root):

```
smart install atftp
```

Then you go to the folder where you downloaded the official Linksys firmware, for instance if you downloaded it in your desktop:

```
cd ~Desktop
```

Unrar the file, for instance if the file is WRT54GL\_v4.30.11\_012\_ETSI\_EN\_code.rar

```
unrar x WRT54GL_v4.30.11_012_ETSI_EN_code.rar
```

Rename the firmware to code.bin.

```
cp WRT54GL_v4.30.11_012_ETSI_EN_code.bin code.bin
```

Then you prepare this command (do not press enter yet):

```
atftp --option "mode octet" --option "timeout 60" --verbose --trace -p -l code.bin 192.168.1.1
```

Disconnect all your network cables from your router, only leaving one from the computer to the router. Then open another terminal and ping to 192.168.1.1

```
ping 192.168.1.1
```

Then unplug and plug back the energy supply and when you see the first ping response from the router you must hit enter in the atftp terminal. Good luck! If everything is alright, you should see a lot of output, from all the transference. At the end you should see the orange/yellow light up. Then you should wait a couple more minutes (you never know what's happening there :D) and then try the Hard reset aka 30/30/30

About the atftp command: we are putting (-p) a local file (-l) called code.bin to the IP address 192.168.1.1 asking for fully information (verbose) and showing all packages (trace), also that it must be trying for one

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minute (timeout 60) and in octet mode. Remember, if you get "code pattern error", try with the official Linksys firmware. More information:

```
man atftp
atftp --help
```

**Important:** you should always try atftp with the official firmware and then flashing to DD-WRT with the HTTP webpage on Administration, "Upgrade Firmware"; specially if you get "**code pattern error**".

**Note:** if you use Gnome or KDE you can get problems while trying to put your static IP address. Most of the times, applications like NetworkManager (aka nm-applet) or knetworkmanager will try to get a dynamic IP address, so you should first kill them. For example:

```
sudo killall NetworkManager
```

or

```
sudo killall nm-applet
```

## If Something Goes Wrong

If your router fails to reboot (power light doesn't stop flashing, no web interface, etc.) you will need to [Recover from a Bad Flash](#).

## Related Links

[Recover from a Bad Flash](#)

[Flash Your Siemens SE505](#)

[TFTP Flashing a Belkin F5D7230](#) - more detailed notes on flashing the F5D7230 (v1000, specifically)

[Asus TFTP Flash](#) - special steps for WL-500gP, WL-500W and WL-500g Deluxe

[Using Ubuntu and tftp to flash an Asus WL-500W](#)