

Understanding the LED Indicators on Wireless Cards

Most wireless network cards have one or more LED's that indicate the card's status and/or activity on the network. When troubleshooting, it is a good idea to understand what the LED activity on your particular wireless card indicates. The tables below provides LED descriptions/interpretations for some of the most common wireless cards on the market today.

- **CISCO Wireless Network Card (Model: AiroNet 350)**

Link Integrity/Power LED (green) – This LED lights when the network card is receiving power and blinks slowly when the card is linked with the network.

Link Activity LED (amber) – This LED blinks quickly when the client adapter is receiving or transmitting data and blinks in a repeating pattern to indicate an error condition.

Green LED	Amber LED	Condition / Meaning
Off	Off	Network Card is not receiving power or an error has occurred.
Blinking Quickly	Blinking Quickly	Power is on, self-test is OK, and network card is scanning for a network
Blinking Slowly	Blinking Quickly	Network Card is associated to an Access Point
Continuously on or Blinking Slowly	Blinking	Network Card is transmitting or receiving data while associated to an Access Point
Off	Blinking Quickly	Network Card is in Power Save Mode
On	Blinking Quickly	Network Card is in "Ad Hoc" Mode
Off	On	Driver is installed incorrectly.
Off	Blinking in a pattern	Indicates an error condition.

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- **D-Link Wireless Network Card (Model: DWL-650)**

Color	State	Meaning
Green	Solid / Steady	Authenticated / Good Connection to the Network
Green	Blinking	Sending or Receiving Data

- **SMC Networks EZ Connect Wireless Network Card (Model: SMC2632W)**

Mode	Status	Description
Infrastructure	Flashing	Indicates that the PC Card is Browsing Active Access Points
	On	Indicates a valid connection to an access point

- **Farallon Wireless Network Card (Model: SkyLINE 11Mb)**

State	Meaning
Solid	Connected to a Wireless Access Point
Blinking	Searching for an Access Point to Connect to

- **Hawking Wireless Network Card (Model: WE110P PCMCIA 11M)**

LED	Meaning
PWR	Indicates that the Card is powered on.
LINK	Indicates link status. It is normally blinking. When blinking, it indicates that the card is scanning the channels, and the link is NOT active. When lit, it indicates that the card is locked to a channel, and the link is active.

- **Buffalo Wireless Network Card (Model: WLI-PCM-L11)**

Name	Function
POWER LED	This LED is green (on) when the card is powered on.
ACTIVE LED	This LED is green (on) when sending or receiving data.

Note: When an access point or a wireless LAN computer is not available, the POWER LED and the ACTIVE LED will alternate on and off every few seconds.

- **Compaq Wireless Network Card (Model: WL110)**

Power LED	Radio LED	Description / Action
Continuous Green	Blinking	<u>Standard operational mode.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Card is powered on. ▪ Sensing/transmitting wireless data.
	Off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Card is powered on. ▪ No wireless activity. ▪ No action is required.
Flicker	Flicker	<u>Power Management mode:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Card is powered on, but set to power saving mode, to conserve battery life. ▪ Flashes indicate that the card wakes up at regular intervals to verify if there is wireless data addressed to your computer.
Both LEDs blink once every 10 seconds		The WL110 PC Card works fine, but did not yet succeed in establishing a wireless connection with the wireless Infrastructure.
Off	Off	Card is not powered on. It cannot transmit/receive data.