Intertex IX66-EDFLC Modem

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Manufacturer: Intertex
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Introduction

Intertex is a Swedish company with over 18 years of experience specializing in telecommunication, networking and security products and today, we're going to take a look at the Intertex IX66-edflc ADSL Modem and IX66 Internet Gate products. The Intertex IX66-edflc is not your standard ADSL modem as it packs a whole bunch of features such as a firewall into a compact and easy to use design while the IX66 Internet Gate offers other internet users such as cable modem or IDSN users all the features found on the IX66-edflc ADSL modem without having to waste the built-in ADSL modem feature.

Specifications

- Two ethernet ports, can be used with cable modems
- USB Interface for USB network connection
- Multi-protocol routing plus bridging
- Complete routing features: RIP, NAT, DHCP client & server, Stateful firewall
- Local and remote management/configuration via web interface
- Support for SIP
- Smartcard reader
- Inbuilt microfilter
- Connects to your PC or LAN via 10/100 Mbps Ethernet or USB
- Display and control by panel key
- Prepared for upgrades for wireless LAN and Appliance Control

First Impressions

Since both the IX66-edflc and IX66 Internet Gate are basically the same (with the exception of the built-in ADSL modem), we will be focusing our review towards the IX66-edflc as it offers a better representation towards the IX66 line. The IX66 series of ADSL modems from Intertex represents a new generation of advanced, highly functional and compact broadband access products. It provides full rate ADSL and ADSL Lite and also includes an access router and firewall which provides security and has the unique feature of handling IP Telephony and other applications conforming to the SIP standard. The IX66-edflc is powered by a 144MHz ARM CPU and comes with 8MB of SDRAM as well as 2MB of flash memory for future firmware upgrades which are easily obtainable from the Intertex website.

Intertex IX66-edflc

IX66 BLOCK DIAGRAM
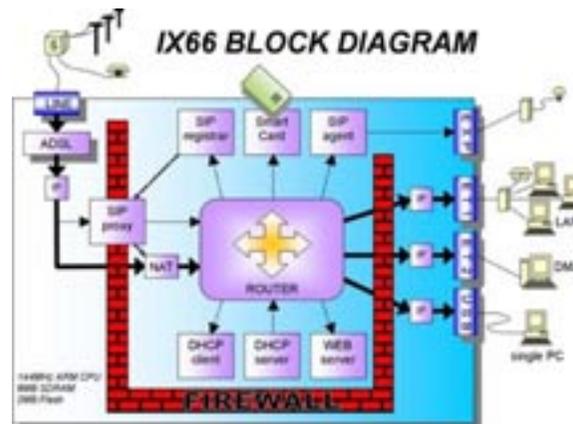
The Intertex IX66-edflc

Intertex includes an excellent bundle of cables and accessories with the IX66-edflc, including a USB cable, two CAT5 cables (one crossover), one RJ11 phone line cable and a line filter for use with your telephone or fax machines sharing the ADSL line with the IX66-edflc. Intertex also includes a driver disk as well as a fairly comprehensive manual but a very good online manual for the IX66 is available online at the Internex IG Manual webbsite which covers just about every aspect of setting up and using the IX66-edflc or other Intertex products.

The IX66-edflc ADSL modem is a very sleek compact device with a display, LEDs as well as three buttons on the front panel. The LEDs display the status of the modem which are the AIR Interface LED which is not in use in this model, the USB LED which shows the IX66-edflc is linked via USB, the ET1 10/100 Mbps Ethernet interface (to DMZ or WAN) and ET2 10/100 Mbps Ethernet interface (to PC or LAN) for Ethernet links, the WAN Status LED to indicate the presense of an internet connection, the TXD LED to indicate the transfer speed upstream and last but not least, the RXD LED to indicate the transfer speed downstream from internet.

There are three buttons on the front panel which allows the user to control various settings from within the modem itself. The first which is the Set key allows the user to enter set-up mode and the Select key allows selection between different displays/values. The last which is the the ATL CFG button allows the user to modify the security profile of the built in firewall to various settings such as Hi or Lo.

The power switch and all the connectors are found on the back of the IX66-edflc and this includes the power (DC in) connector, the USB connector, two ethernet port connectors named ET1 and ET2 which can be used in different situations,

Bundled cables and accessories

The Intertex IX66-edflc   Back of the modem

a spare EXP port which is an expansion port for home appliances as well as a line port for linking the modem up to your ADSL line.

Setting up

The Intertex IX66-edflc is a very flexible device allowing the user to setup the modem in various different ways. The most common setup which is via ethernet to the PC or LAN can be easily achieved by connecting a CAT5 cable to the ET2 port on the IX66-edflc to your PC or your hub/router, pretty much like what you would do with any other ethernet based ADSL

modem/bridge. Linking the IX66-edflc to your router or hub will allow the rest of the network to share the ADSL connection and this will allow you to access the internet from any PC on the network by itself without having to leave another on.

All cables connected!

Since there are two ethernet ports on the IX66-edflc, you can also use the second (ET1) ethernet port for cable modem or other broadband connections so that you can have the benefit of the IX66-edflc firewall functions without having to use an ADSL connection. If you're running a single PC, the USB port is also another option which is basically an alternative to setting up the IX66-edflc with the ET2 ethernet port. Unlike other 'USB ADSL modems', the IX66-edflc does not consume lots of processing power from your PC when used in USB mode as the modem creates nothing more than a virtual bridge to your PC via the USB interface. The on board processor takes care of all the processing duties - very cool indeed!

Once all the necessary cables are connected, the IX66-edflc should register the presense of the ADSL broadband link (WAN LED) and the final setup can be completed via the web interface. Just surf over to the IX66's IP address which was 192.168.0.1 in our case and we were then presented with the Internex login page which will then allow you to customize all the different parameteres for your connection. The default

PPP service method is the PPPoverEthernet (PPPoE) for our setup and after setting up the user name and password for our TMnet Streamyx broadband account, we're ready to go!
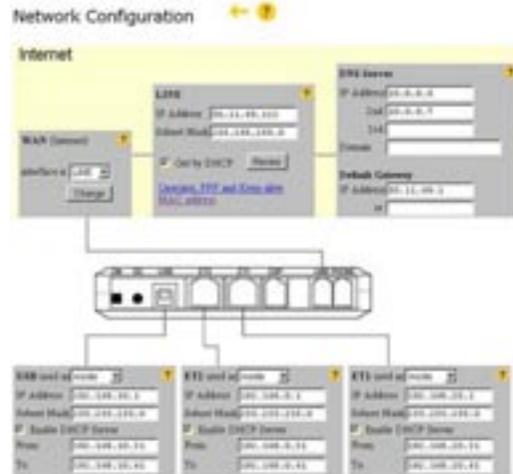
Besides the initial setup, the web interface also offers lots of other advanced configuration settings for the firewall which allows for specific applications to be assigned to different IP addresses, port redirections and much more. One thing's for sure, the IX66-edflc has more features and more customizable options than ANY other similar device we've seen, it's that amazing.

In Use

Our local ADSL connection speed is 384kbps downstream and 128kbps upstream and the connection speeds were conviniently displayed on the front panel of the IX66-edflc. We tried to get a few shots of the display showing various readouts but the display which was red over a red background wasn't exactly easy to photograph. There are three buttons on the front panel which allows the user to control various settings from within the modem itself. The first which is the Set key allows the user to enter set-up mode and the Select key allows selection

between different displays/values. The last which is the the ATL CFG button allows the user to modify the security profile of the built in firewall to various settings such as Hi or Lo.

Display and LED status

The IX66-edflc has it's firewall set to Hi by default and when we first connected to the internet, most applications such as ICQ or Kazaa did not work. This is because at the Hi security profile, the firewall blocks out all incoming traffic to the system and with a simple security profile change, everything was back to normal. The built in firewall is an excellent addition and should provide sufficient protection against any security threats. The ability to quickly change security profiles from Lo to Hi with the touch of a button is simply unbeatable.

Performance

Our local ADSL connection speed is 384kbps downstream and 128kbps upstream and the IX66-edflc managed to score very well in the performance test with excellent download speeds. There was no lag throughout all the online games and the streaming videos came in beautifully as well, all very smooth with no lag. We tried to hook up the IX66-edlfc to our system via the USB port as well and instead of making extensive use of the processor (like most USB ADSL modems), the IX66-edflc creates a virtual network interface with it's own IP address

Smart Card reader built-in

and makes virtually no use of the processor's power. This is excellent because you can use the IX66-edflc anywhere without a network card and without any hint of increased processor use!
Speed Test - Intertex IX66-edflc
Download - 362Kbps, Upload - 121Kbps

Additional features

Besides the built in firewall, router and ADSL modem, the IX66-edflc also features a smart card reader built into the side of the unit. This allows the IX66-edflc to read data off smart cards or credit cards which will be very useful in the future when this becomes standard. In addition to that, the IX66-edflc also has a built in mail checker which will notify you if you have new email in any of your POP accounts via the front panel display.

Conclusion

The Intertex IX66-edflc is perhaps one of the most unique products I have ever seen. Not only does it have lots of features such as a built-in firewall, router and ADSL modem but it also manages to integrate all the functions very well and instead of having a separate box on your desk for your modem, firewall and router, you can replace all of that with just the IX66-edflc. If you want to share the modem around your network, then all you have to do is just add a switch and you're all set! The IX66-edflc is also future proof with the ability to download firmware upgrades from the Intertex website directly from the web interface.

For cable modem or users of other broadband connections other than ADSL, Intertex also produces the IX66 Internet gate which has all the features of the IX66-edflc reviewed here with the exception of the built-in ADSL modem. The IX66 line from Intertex is truly a work of art, very highly recommended!

Feature Report

Pros
- Excellent performance
- Amazing array of features
- Very good bundle of accessories
- Great support
- Built in firewall
- Built in smart card reader
- Very good web interface
- Ethernet and USB interface

Cons
- Front panel aesthetics could use some work
- Printed manual not as comprehensive as online manual

Report Card

EXHardware Rating	
Intertex IX66-edflc ADSL Modem	
Features	9/10
Documentation / Software	7/10
Accessories	8/10
Performance	8/10
Quality	9/10
Overall Score	**8.5/10**
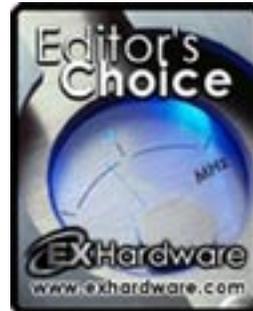
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EXHardware Editor's Choice - Networking
www.exhardware.com

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