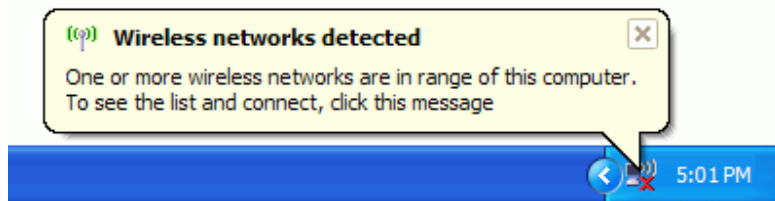# Setting Up a Wireless Connection

**Connect Windows XP to a Vodafone HG556a wireless network**

This guide describes how to set up a wireless connection between a Windows XP computer and a Vodafone HG556a wireless network. Before you begin this tutorial ensure that your computer's wireless network adapter is enabled.

Click here if you are unsure whether your Windows XP computer has a wireless network adapter installed, otherwise please continue.

1. Ensure your Vodafone HG556a modem is powered on. The Power, DSL and Wireless lights should all be lit red.

2. When your computer is within range of the Vodafone HG556a wireless modem, Windows XP should detect it and prompt you with a **Wireless networks detected** message in the notification area of your taskbar.
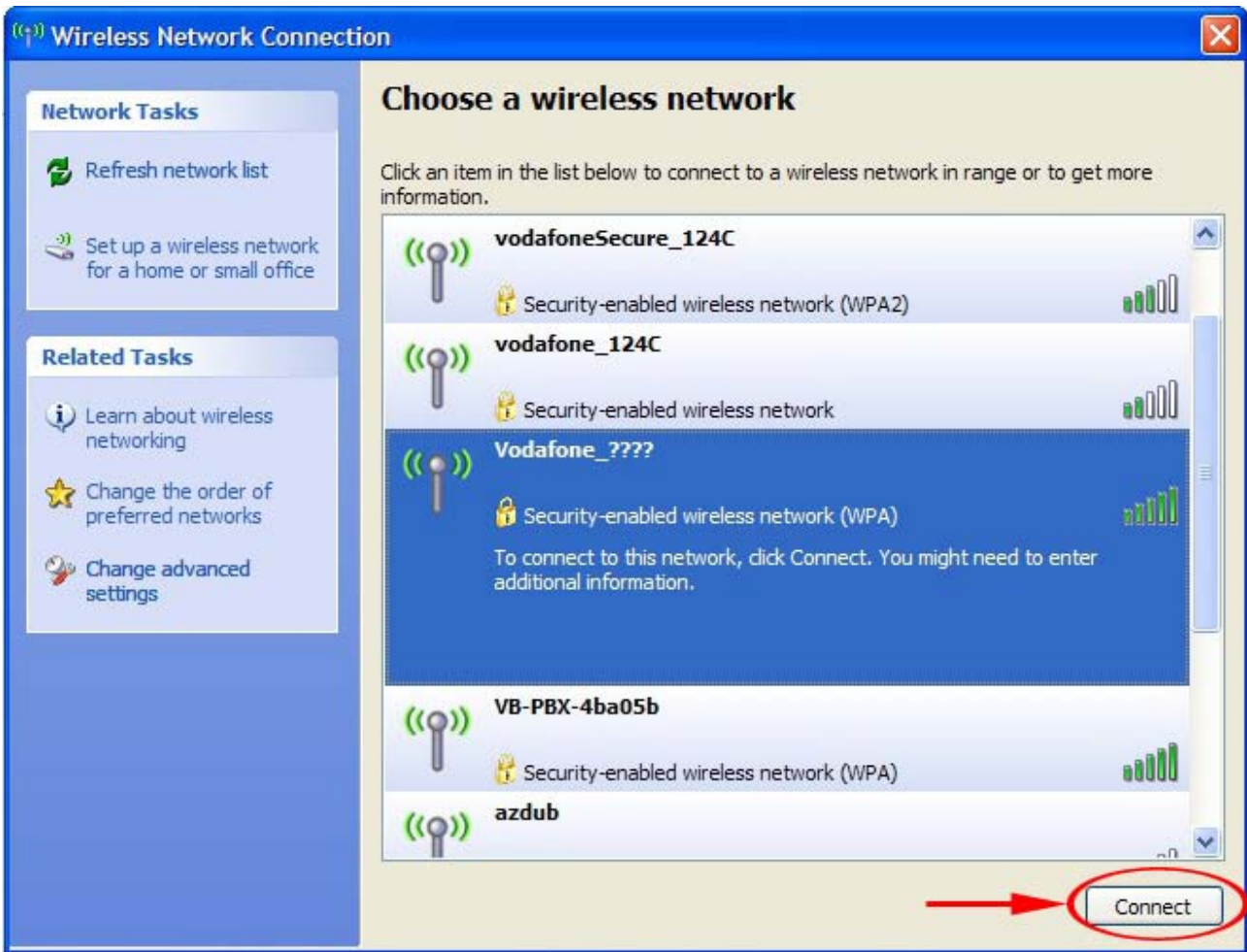

3. Click the notification message. If you are not notified, right-click the **Wireless Network Connection** adapter icon and then click **View Available Wireless Networks**.
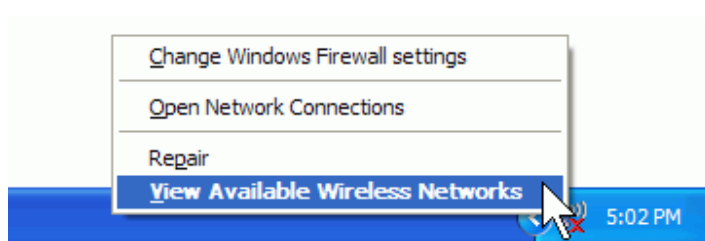
Click here if the message **Windows cannot configure this wireless connection** appears.

4. Select your **Vodafone** wireless network then click **Connect**.

Your own network can be identified as the SSID printed on the label on the back of your modem.

In the example shown to the left, the SSID is Vodafone_BF83 so this is also the Network Name.

If no Vodafone wireless network appears in the list, check that your modem is correctly installed and switched on. Both the Power and Wireless lights should be lit red.

Your computer might also be out of range. Move closer or re-position your Vodafone modem to reduce the distance. Then click "**Refresh network list**".

5. The **Wireless Network Connection** dialog box will appear.

Type the WPA Key for your Vodafone modem in to the **Network key** and **Confirm network key** boxes and then click **Connect**.

Your **WPA Key** can be found on the label on the *back* of your modem.

6. If the status message for your wireless network in the **Wireless Network Connection** dialog box is **Connected**, then close the window.

7. Once the connection is made, place your cursor over the wireless network connected icon [icon] in the system tray to verify the Name, Speed, Strength, and Status of the connection.

   If the connection is weak or slow, go to Improve Wireless Signal Range.

8. That completes this tutorial, if the DSL light on your Vodafone modem is constantly lit red (i.e. not flashing) then you should now be able to browse websites wirelessly. Open your Internet browser and try a few of your favourite sites.

---End

What can I do to improve the wireless range between my Vodafone modem and my computers?

Wireless modem/routers use a frequency spectrum that is shared with many other wireless electronic devices such as other wireless networks, video senders or microwave ovens. Although the modems are designed to cope with a certain level of interference, in some environments it can be difficult to achieve optimal performance.

There are several measures you can take to minimise interference and improve the range between your wireless modem and computers.

1. Most wireless problems are due to interference from other network or appliances. You can change the wireless channel used by your modem to try and avoid those interferences. Start by trying channels 1, 6 or 11, then try all channels in between if necessary. Wait for 60 seconds each time after changing the channel to verify if the signal has improved. As all environments are different, there is no easy method for doing this other than trial and error.

2. Position the antenna vertically on your wireless adapter (ignore this step if you use a laptop with a built-in wireless network adapter).

3. Locate the modem in a central place in the house (where telephone socket allows).

4. Locate the wireless modem over or on your desk/table, not under it.

5. If the wireless modem is on the ground floor and range is a problem upstairs, try positioning it on a shelf.

6. Where available on the wireless adapter, use cables or antenna extension provided to locate wireless adapter away from your computer and other sources of interference. Ignore this step if you use a laptop with a built-in wireless network adapter.

7. Move all wireless devices away from potential sources of interference such as microwave ovens, metal sheets, cordless phones, cordless keyboards and mice, video senders, etc. Switch them off or move them away to identify which one interferes. Some devices such as video senders offer the possibility to change their channel of operation so if possible try configuring an alternative channel on the other devices too.

8. Interference might be intermittent (for example, if a video sender is only used in the evening, or when a microwave oven is being used). Therefore you might need to check for electrical devices that are only used at certain times.

9. Some laptops with a built-in wireless adapter will provide lower wireless performance than an external wireless adapter such as a USB dongle. Consider upgrading to a USB wireless adapter or borrowing one for testing where possible.

Back to Wireless Connection Set Up

If the message "**Windows cannot configure this wireless connection**" appears follow the instructions below.

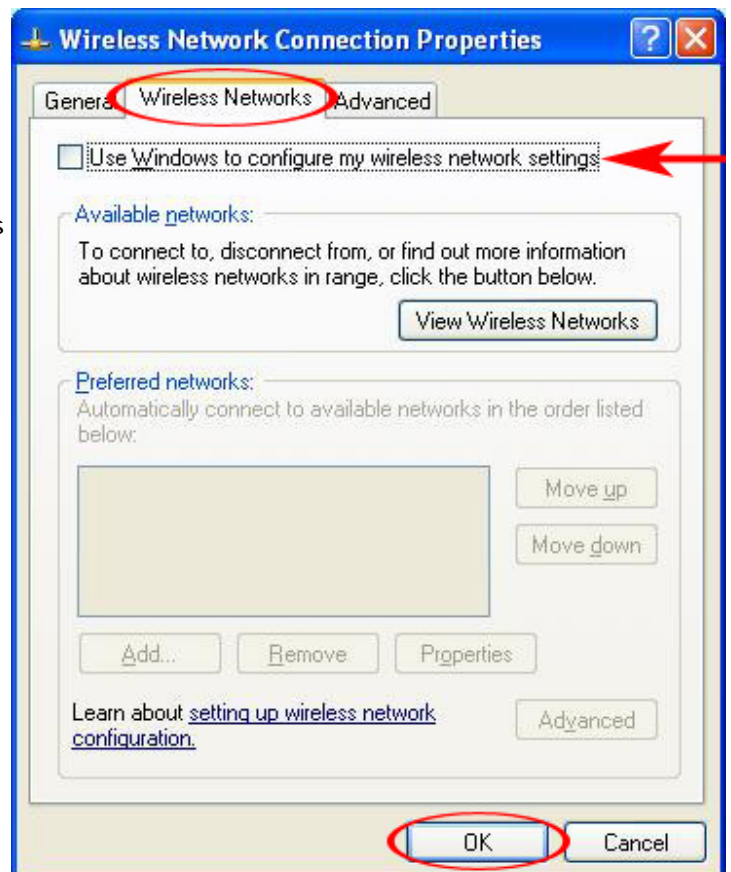1. Click "**Change advanced settings**" in the menu on the left under "Related Tasks".
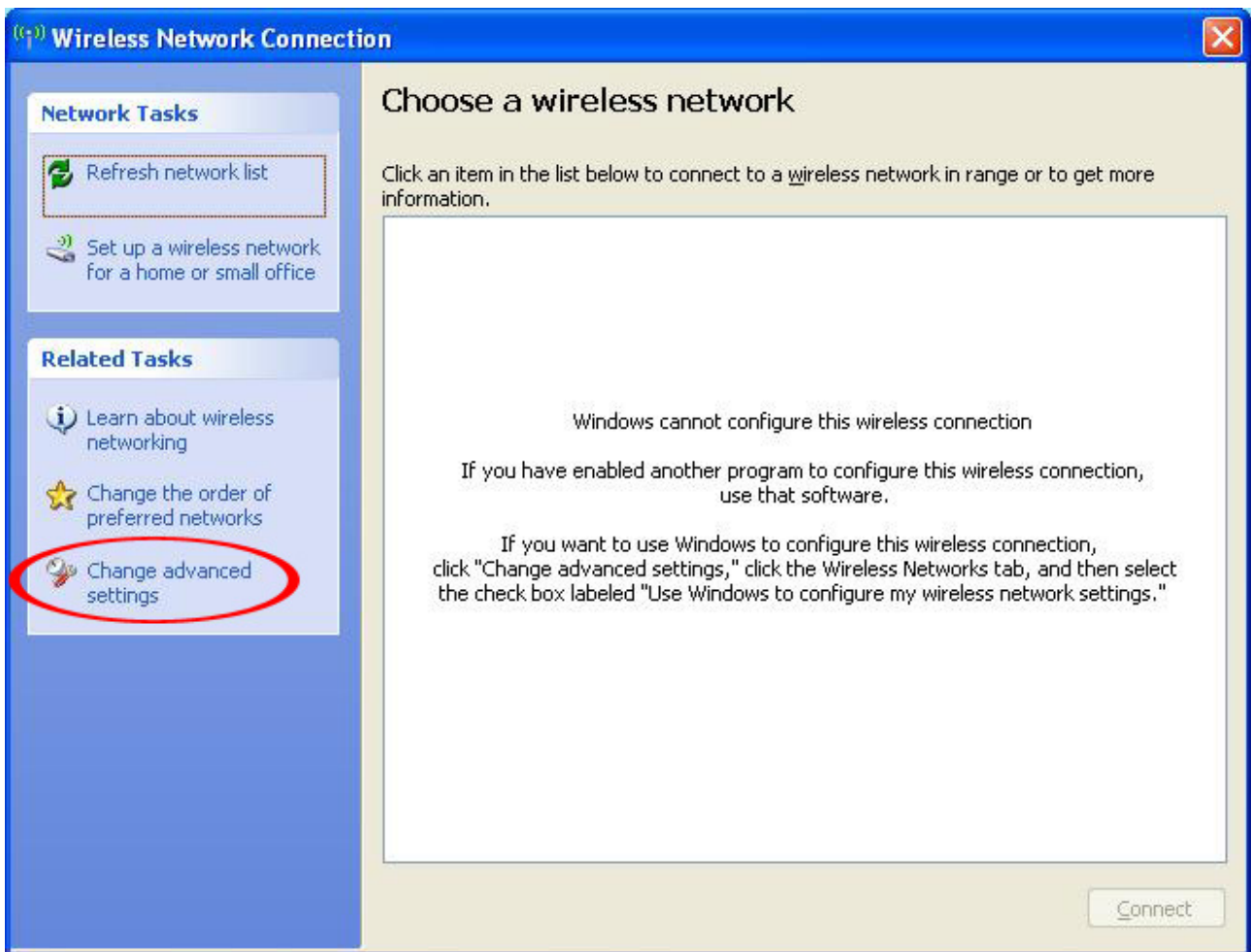
2. Click the **Wireless Networks** tab.

Click here if the **Wireless Networks** tab is not seen.

3. Click ☑ Use Windows to configure my wireless network settings.

4. Click **OK**.

Back to Wireless Connection Set Up

If the **Wireless Networks** tab is not visible…

1. Click **Start** and then click **Control Panel**

2. Click Switch to Classic View in the upper-left corner when available.

3. Double-click **Administrative Tools**.

4. Double-click **Computer Management**.

5. Click the plus button to the left of **Services and Applications**.

6. Double-click **Wireless Zero Configuration**.

7. Choose "**Automatic**" from the drop down menu next to **Startup Type:**

8. Click the **Start** button.

9. Click **Apply** and then click **OK**.

How to determine if your computer has a wireless network adapter

Many portable computers manufactured after 2000 have wireless networking built in. However, because the antenna is hidden inside the computer, it's not easy to see. To see which network adpaters are currently installed on your computer:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Control Panel**.
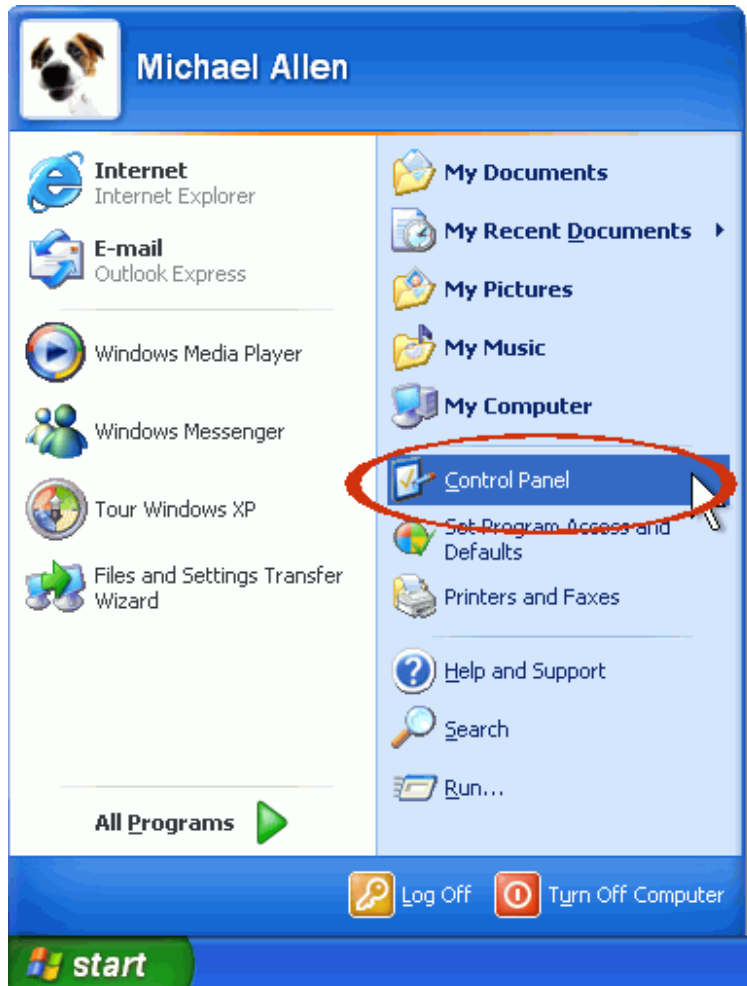
2. Click **Network and Internet Connections**.

3. Under **or pick a Control Panel icon**, click **Network Connections**.

4. Microsoft Windows XP displays your network adapters. Wireless network adapters are labeled Wireless Network Connection. If an adapter displays a red X, it is disconnected. If the **Network Connections** window is blank, your computer doesn't yet have a wired or wireless network adapter.
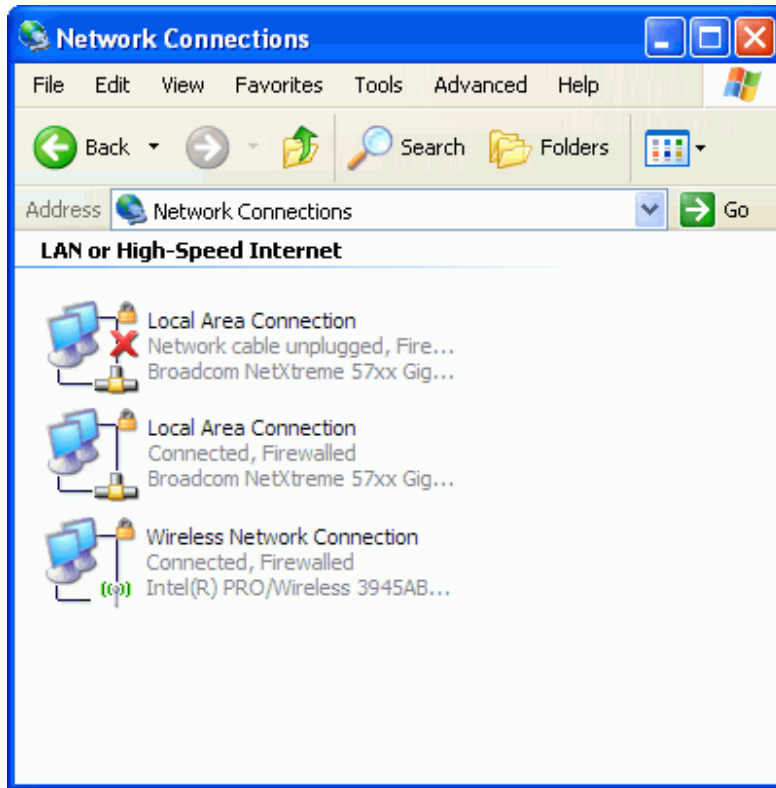
If you already have a wireless network adapter, you can set up your wieless network.

Tip: If your portable computer has a built-in wireless network adapter, but it doesn't appear to be enabled or working, check the back, front, and sides of the computer for a wireless adapter switch. Many laptops include a switch so that you can turn the adapter off to reduce battery consumption. Back to Wireless Connection Set Up.