

HomeGrid Slam Dunks on HomePlug War of Words

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Write a story about the Home Networking war and you invariably get a response from the other side of the debate claiming your piece is full of inaccuracies and demanding their say. But the email we got over last week's piece on HomePlug is slightly different in that we mostly agree. The comments came via Donna Yasay, business development director at **Marvell** and president of the **HomeGrid Forum**.

HomePlug Alliance president Rob Ranck had lashed out a bit at Marvell, which he perceives as the evil genius behind G.hn, and the main thrust of his interview was to imply that HomePlug homes would stop working if anyone brought a G.hn powerline router into the home.

We told him we seemed to remember that G.hn had implemented some coexistence with HomePlug, but Ranck insisted there was no such feature. A series of emails from Yasay insist to the contrary that G.hn indeed implemented coexistence with **IEEE** 1901, calling it G.cx (part of G.9972) and it uses the same ISP (Inter System Protocol) that 1901 signed up for. She added, "The problem is that no HomePlug chip actually implemented the ISP, therefore making it impossible to coexist with HomePlug. Only **Panasonic** implemented ISP in their 1901 solution, but Panasonic has little US market penetration."

That is pretty much what we told Rob Ranck and he dismissed it. It is one thing to complain that a new technology will interfere with the market-dominant chips, and yet quite another to have that new community go to a lot of trouble to build in coexistence and to then ignore the responsibility to do so yourself.

Yasay finally added, "In my old job I could never get any HomePlug based chipsets to pass carrier video testing if my life depended on it. I was only able to pass video testing at a carrier's lab using a prototype chipset based on G.hn. It is ironic four years after that timeframe I am now part of the G.hn community."

Her final thought was that HomePlug AV2 MIMO has been causing its own technology blackouts when used with its own legacy technology and G.hn is coming to save them both.

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