



The CradlePoint MBR1000 sits atop a table in the front room of the Courtney home. The MBR1000 instantly creates a Wi-Fi hotspot that any Wi-Fi enabled device can connect to—laptop, camera, PDA, etc. The MBR1000 connects devices to the Internet in two ways: via 3G/4G mobile broadband using an EVDO or USB air card, providing high-speed web access virtually anywhere. Or it can also be plugged into a DSL or cable modem.

## Rural Homeowners Get Broadband Internet Access Using CradlePoint

Family Lives On a 50-Acre Farm But Still Lives A High-Tech Lifestyle Thanks to Their CradlePoint MBR1000

### SITUATION

Sheila Courtney and her family live on a 50-acre farm in Michigan. Their home is in a rural location that is not served by DSL. But dial-up just isn't an option. Sheila sums it up this way: "Just because we live in the country doesn't mean we're technologically backward." In fact, the family owns three computers, one iTouch, one PSP and one Wii. The family considered cable and satellite Internet service, but they like to travel and wanted a mobile solution that could travel with them. They got an air card and broadband mobile service from Verizon. However, there was still a problem.

### CHALLENGE

"I was aggravated that the air card would only connect one computer at a time to the Internet. All the other computers and electronics couldn't share the connection," says Sheila.

## SOLUTION

"I had heard about routers, so I went to Best Buy and asked them, 'How do I get a router that can share my air card Internet connection with all my computers and devices?'" recalls Sheila. "They said they only sold only one solution: CradlePoint. They were sold out at the time, but suggested I go to online and buy one if I needed it right away. I didn't and I wanted to buy at the store in case I needed to return it. While waiting for the next shipment to come in, I went online and did some research. After reading online reviews, it sounded like the CradlePoint was the best option."

"Our teenagers think it is so COOL to have a Wi-Fi hotspot in our very own house." )))

Once the CradlePoint routers were back in stock, Sheila bought the CradlePoint MBR1000. "Set up was a breeze," says Sheila. "Even though we made the leap from dial-up to wireless networking and kind of skipped over that whole DSL/wired network thing, it only took about 10 minutes to get it set up."

The MBR1000 sits in the front room of their home. "Our house is in a valley and right at the edge of Verizon's coverage, so that's the one room where we get a good signal with our air card," Sheila explains. The MBR1000 allows the computers and devices to be scattered throughout the house—in the basement, upstairs, at the back of the house—instead of having to use them only in the one room with a good signal. "We have a big house. For instance, our breakfast area is about 50 feet from the router. But I can bring my laptop back there and it works great."

The family uses their CradlePoint-powered Internet connection in a number of ways. "When we are on the computer, using our MBR1000, we are selling items on eBay, shopping the best deals, catching up with Facebook, and responding to emails. Our MBR1000 also allows us to use our Wii Mario Kart to connect and race people all over the world. And the iTouch—that thing is designed to get on the Internet!"

## BENEFITS

- **Easy.** "I was really simple," Sheila notes. "The minute I plugged the air card in [to the MBR1000], it recognized it. It would have taken me four minutes to set it up instead of 10, but I was plugging the cable into the wrong port. Once I re-read the instructions and plugged it into the right port, everything worked right away."
- **Reliable.** "[The MBR1000] is very reliable," reports Sheila. "It always turns on properly. I just plug it in and it works."
- **Performance.** "The performance is terrific," says Sheila. "My daughter can be on Facebook, I can be working on the laptop, someone else can be surfing online, another person can be sending emails...all at the same time."
- **Portable.** "We're getting the battery-powered unit to take with us when we travel. It will be great to be able to get online and book hotel rooms while we're on the road."

Sheila sums up: "Thanks to our MBR1000, our entire family can utilize their wireless devices without interfering with each other. Our teenagers think it is so COOL to have a Wi-Fi hotspot in our very own house and their friends are amazed that their devices connect so easily. It's almost a status symbol."