

How to build a passive network TAP?

Introduction

What is a network tap? A network tap is made for sniffing network traffic. The tap is only some cabling to passively listen to network traffic of a different host than the sniffer PC.

This article will describe how to build a network tap for a few bucks, using a network socket. You will only need a couple of minutes to finish this.



What you need

All thing you need are very usual for network geeks. This is what you need:

- one RJ-45 double network socket
- one Cat 5 (or better) cable with two RJ-45 plugs
- 40cm network cable
- down tool (optional)
- screwdriver
- soldering iron
- solder

- insulating tape

Let do it

You open the network socket and using the network cable and the screwdriver you cable the socket like this:

From pin	to pin
1	1
2	2
3	3
6	6

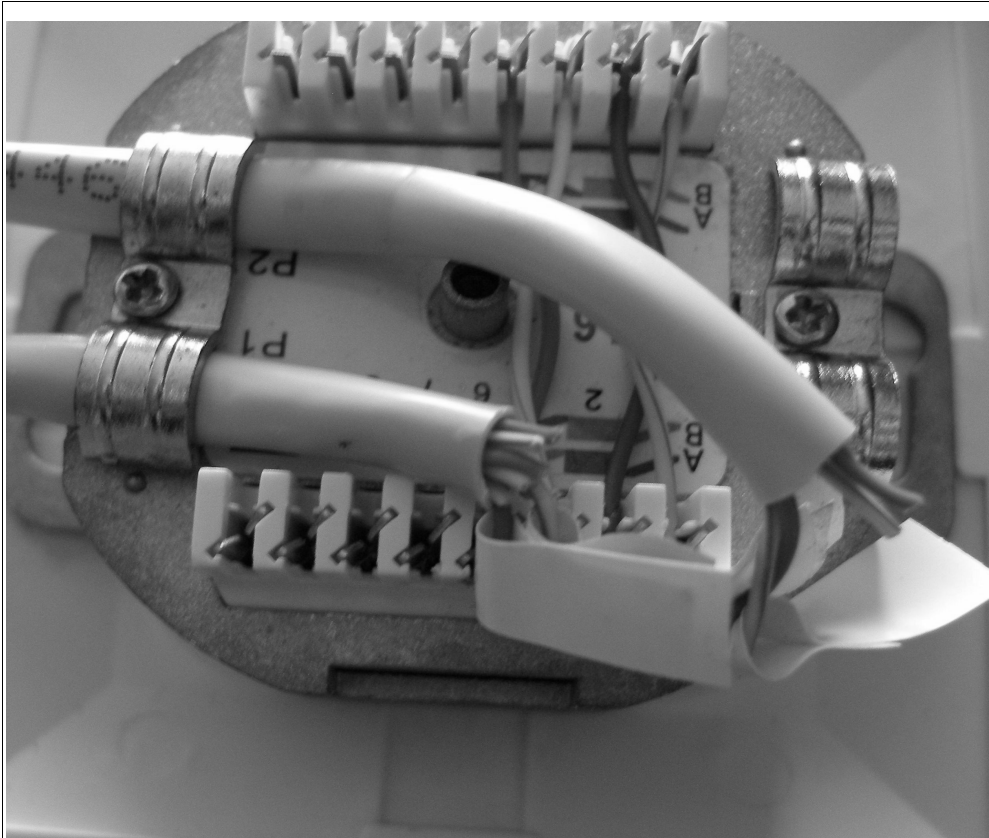
That is quite easy, it is a 1:1 pass through cabling.

Now we get the CAT 5 cable into the game. Cut the cable in the middle in two pieces and strip line 3 and 6. Three and six are the lines where your sniffer PC receives network traffic.

Next step is to solder the RX-lines of the two CAT 5 cable pieces to the socket lines like this:

Socket pin	CAT 5 pin
1	3
2	6
3	3
6	6

Now your socket looks like this:



Network tap back

And you are ready to sniffer passively.

Using the tap

Plug the uplink from switch into the left jack. Use a patch cable to connect the client - means device, which traffic should be sniffed - with the right port.

Now you connect the right or left patch cable to sniff RX (network traffic to the client) or TX (network traffic from the client).

To sniff full duplex you have to use two network cards with channel bonding.