What Do I Need?

For this tutorial you’ll need the following items:

1- Raspberry Pi unit with Raspbian installed (this technique should work on other distributions, but we’re using Raspbian)

2- Ethernet connection to Pi unit (necessary for activating the Wi-Fi functionality remotely)

3- Wi-Fi Dongle (we use this model on all our Pi units with great success)

If you don’t use this Wi-Fi dongle model, we strongly recommend researching the model you intend to purchase to see if it is well supported. To that end, the USB Wi-Fi adapter section of the RPi wiki is very helpful.

In addition to the above items, you need to take a moment to check the configuration of the Wi-Fi node you intend to connect your Raspberry Pi unit to: you’ll need to make note of the SSID, password, and encryption type/method (e.g. the node is using WPA with TKIP shared-key encryption).