

PePLink Balance Series Drop-in Operational Mode

Background

When a PePLink Balance operates in Drop-in Mode, also known as transparent or bridge mode, it forwards data traffic like a Layer 2 switch. This allows the device to be transparently deployed into an existing network to load balance traffic with additional WAN link(s), without affecting the IP settings of the router, firewall and hosts on the network. Drop-in Mode is supported in Balance firmware release 3.2.0 and above.

Drop-in Mode Deployment of PePLink Balance

In this application, the hosts accessible from the Internet may use private addresses or public addresses assigned by the Internet Service Provider (ISP). No hardware or software configuration changes are required to the firewall or to the internet router already in place. Since there is no need to re-configure IP settings of the existing equipment, the Balance is completely transparent to the ISPs. A typical deployment scenario is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

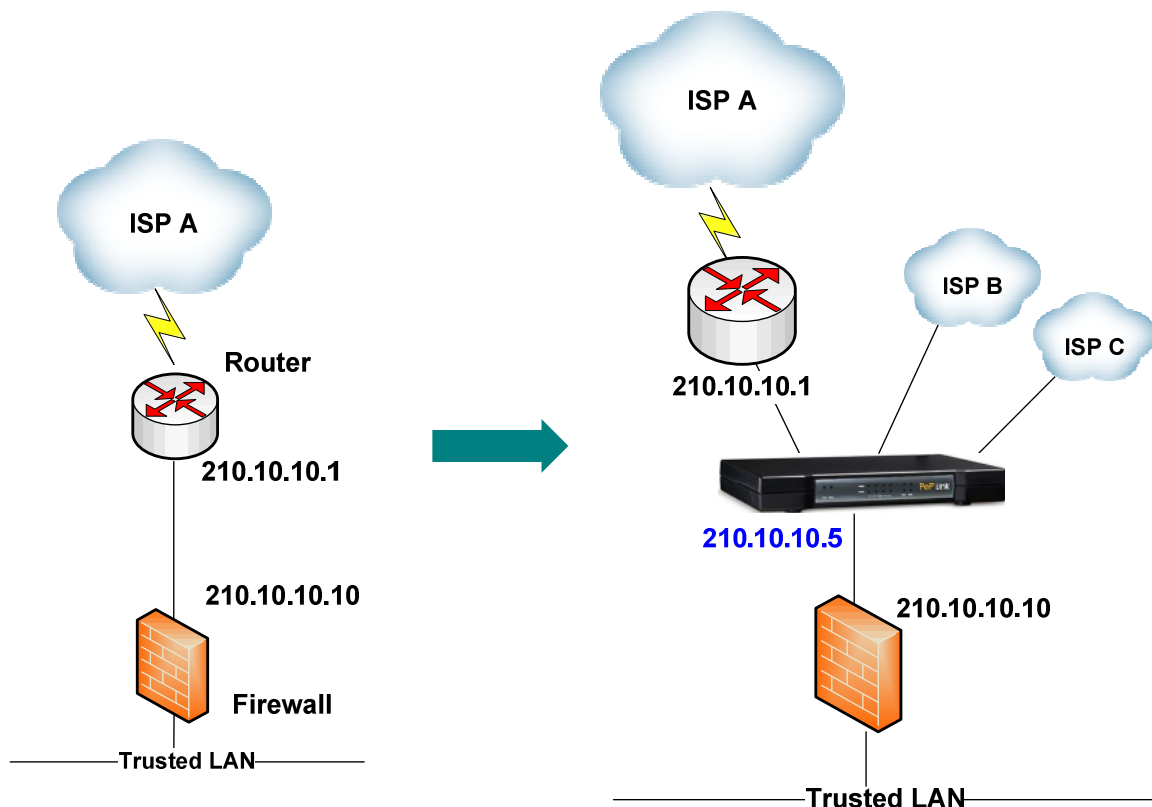


Figure 1 - Before and After PePLink Balance Installation
The IP addresses are assigned for illustrative purposes only.

Drop-in Mode Configuration

The following configuration steps are completed to set up Drop-in Mode.

Select: Interfaces > LAN > Drop-in Mode (on WAN1).

Enter the following and then click Save:

- Enable: *Check enable box.*
- Default Gateway: *Enter IP Address of Router on WAN1.*
- IP Address of Hosts on WAN segment: *If there are more hosts other than the router on the WAN segment, enter the host IP addresses in this list.*

The following screenshot illustrates the Drop-in Mode configuration for the Balance deployment example in Figure 1.

The screenshot shows the PeP link web interface with the 'Advanced Setup' tab selected. The breadcrumb trail is 'Advanced Setup > Interfaces > LAN'. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with categories: Global Settings, Interfaces (LAN, WAN, VPN), Firewall (Outbound, Inbound), Outbound Traffic Management, Inbound Access (Servers, Services, DNS Settings), DMZ Servers, and Misc. Settings (High Availability, Time Server, SNMP Setup). The main content area is titled 'IP Settings:' and contains the following configuration fields:

IP Address *	210.10.10.5
Subnet Mask *	255.255.255.0
Static Routes	Destination Network: [input] Subnet Mask: 255.255.255.0 Gateway: [input]
Speed	Auto
Drop-in Mode (on WAN1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enable
	Default Gateway: 210.10.10.1
	IP Address of Hosts on WAN segment: [list box]

Buttons for 'Delete Selected' and '<<' are visible at the bottom right of the configuration area.

Summary of Benefits of Drop-in Mode

- Drop-in Mode makes installation extremely easy, while effectively enabling the installation of multiple WAN connections.
- No configuration changes are required to existing network elements upon installation.
- Drop-in Mode simplifies network changes and troubleshooting for network administrators.