More Work To Make a Home Network Work

As computer networks move out of the workplace and into the home, difficulties arise when home users configure, use, and troubleshoot network technologies originally designed for expert systems administrators.

In the paper “The Work To Make a Home Network Work,” the authors examined the use and maintenance of complex computer and audiovisual networks in domestic settings. In their study, they found that home network users devote a significant amount of time to network configuration and maintenance, and frequently had to coordinate their household routines around networking.

The study, however, only had 14 participants from 7 households. All of the households were from the same area of the USA, contained a wealthier-than-average dual income couple, and had at least one household member with a significant computer networking background.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it…
You will extend the study described in “The Work to Make a Home Network Work” to include households other than those that are wealthier-than-average and technically savvy. To accomplish this task, you must:

1. Read “The Work To Make a Home Network Work”
2. Review sanitized data from the original study as well as the original surveys and interview guides used for the study
3. Gain IRB approval to continue this project
4. Recruit 10+ households for the study
5. Survey/interview the members of these households
6. Analyze your data

Project Deliverables
- Research data
- An N-page analysis of your results.