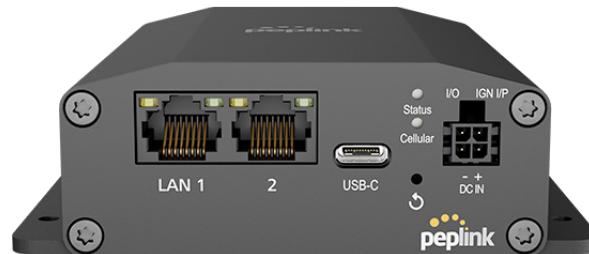


Using the Peplink Max Adapter V2 with Comrex Codex

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Peplink has had two products called “Max Adapter”. The first version, V1, was discontinued in mid 2024, but V2 has become available, and the price (\$200USD list) makes it a viable option for use with Comrex ACCESS and LiveShot Codexs.



Max Adapter V2 has both a USB-C port (ostensibly for power and/or network data) and two Ethernet ports for data. It also comes with an external AC power adapter. The simplest way to use the MAX Adapter with ACCESS is to power the Peplink device from its external power supply and attach an Ethernet cable between the Max Adapter’s “LAN1” port and the codec’s Ethernet port. You won’t get any status feedback on the UI of the ACCESS, as it will appear just like a normal Ethernet LAN.

Alternatively, you can attach a USB A-to-C cable between the Max Adapter and the codec. This will have the advantage of powering the Max Adapter and providing data on a single cable; however, there is a small issue with this configuration:

The driver supported by the Max Adapter is called “NDIS” (Network Driver Interface Specification), and a side effect of this driver is that the Max Adapter generates a virtual MAC address each time it is attached. This MAC address changes, so you will see a new entry for “Ethernet Port” on the Comrex device each time the Max Adapter is attached this way. It won’t cause any operations issues, and the old entries can be deleted without causing any problems, but only one entry will actually show “attached” on the Comrex Network Manager menu.

One other option is to power the Max Adapter from the Comrex device’s USB port, while using one of the Ethernet ports for data. This works, but note that if you use a Full-Featured USB-C cable (i.e., one supporting data as well as power), two networks will be active on the Comrex device (USB and Ethernet), both actually representing the same Max Adapter. The best approach here is to find a dedicated USB-C “Charge Only” cable that doesn’t pass through data leads.

The brand StarTech currently offers a cable as well as a cable adapter that are notable for being visually distinct at a glance and therefore easy to recognize on the fly as lacking data leads (as shown below).

