

Computer Corner

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We recently saw a local news report, which stated there is a security threat to wireless networks. We setup our own wireless network and worry that it isn't secure. What are the security issues to wireless networks, and how can we keep hackers out?

Wireless products provide several network security features, but they require specific action on your part for implementation.

Here is a complete list of measures to follow with wireless networking. While this list is complete, steps A through E should be followed in **EVERY** wireless situation. Steps F and G are additional measures recommendations to increase wireless security.

WIRELESS SECURITY

- A.** Change the default SSID (Service Set Identifier)
- B.** Disable SSID Broadcasts
- C.** Change the default password Administrator accounts
- D.** Enable MAC Address Filtering
- E.** Change SSIDs periodically
- F.** Enable WEP 128-bit Encryption. *Note: Network performance will be reduced.*
- G.** Change WEP encryption keys periodically.

When installing wireless networks, be sure to include these measures. If you have a professional install your wireless network, use these measures as a checklist. Require your professional to verify security with you by following the list. Failing to implement these procedures will compromise network security and allow hacker access to your network.