

Network Security for the Common User by Jim Manderscheid of Strait Up Mac

Network security

- What is computer security?
- Why should I care about security?
- Network responsibility
- Who would want to break into my Mac?
- How easy is it to break into my networked Mac?

Internet Technology

- What does broadband mean?
- What is cable modem access?
- What is DSL access?
- How are broadband services different from traditional dial-up services?
 - Dial-up
 - Broadband
 - Connection type
 - What is WiFi vs. cellular vs. wired vs. cordless?
 - IP address
 - Relative connection speed
 - Remote control potential
 - ISP-provided security

What is network protocol?

- What is IP?
- What is an IP address?
- What are static and dynamic addressing?
- What is NAT?
- What are TCP and UDP Ports?

What is a firewall?

What is a router?

- WAN vs. LAN
- Wifi vs. Ethernet
- Creating a network
- Network passwords
- Closed vs. open networks (broadcasting network names)
- Creating a MAC address list (by invitation only)

Security risks to a home network of Mac users

- What is at risk and by whom?

Intentional misuse of your computer

- Trojan horse programs
- Back door and remote administration programs
- Denial of service
- Being an intermediary for another attack
- Mobile code (Java/JavaScript/ActiveX)
- Cross-site scripting
- Email spoofing
- Email borne viruses
- Hidden file extensions
- Chat clients
- Packet sniffing

Common sense actions Mac users can take to protect their computers and networks:

- Use virus protection software
- Use a firewall
- Use passwords
- Create and use only a closed network
- Create a MAC address list for your closed network
- Don't open unknown email attachments
- Don't run programs of unknown origin
- Disable hidden filename extensions
- Keep all applications (including your operating system) updated
- Make regular backups of critical data

Optional but recommended:

- Turn off your computer or disconnect from the network when not in use
- Disable Java, JavaScript, if possible
- Disable scripting features in email programs
- Keep your system restore disks handy in case your computer is damaged or compromised.

Settings to securely set up an Airport Extreme router

Questions and Answers