



How to Secure Your Home Network

Summary: With the continuing broad use of teleworking, individuals must be aware of ways to maintain a safe home security work environment. The following steps will ensure that the connection to your home wireless network remains secure against intruders.

Windows-based computers

Step 1: Select start menu.

Step 2: Select settings – select Wi-Fi listed under “Network & Internet”

Step 3: Click manage known networks.

Step 4: Find the Wi-Fi network your computer is connected to and select properties

Step 5: Scroll down to bottom of page – under Properties check next to security type.

Step 6: Verify that your security type says WPA2.

A screenshot of a Windows network properties window. The text "Security type: WPA2-Personal" is displayed in a light gray box, which is highlighted with a red rectangular border.

Mac-based computers

Step 1: Select start menu.

Step 2: Select settings – select Wi-Fi.

Step 3: Verify that there is a lock besides your network name.

Tips applicable to all systems:

1. Always verify that you are working on a secured network. Some systems may attempt to connect to an insecure network when restarted.
2. Change Wi-Fi and router administration passwords from the factory defaults to more complex passwords.
3. Change the network name (name you see when connecting to network) from the factory default to a unique network name. Also avoid using location-based names or names based on personal information as using easily guessable names may make the network an easy target for intruders looking for vulnerable routers/networks.
4. Just as in the office, always remove CAC when the computer is unattended.
5. Never keep network and admin information visible or on written material.

Resource:

PC World, “How to secure your home Wi-Fi network and router,” 2021