Keep Your Home Wi-Fi Network Safe from Hackers

Because your **home Wi-Fi network reaches beyond the walls** of your house, it's important to **safeguard the wireless signal from cybercrooks.** To follow these instructions, **log on to your Wi-Fi provider's website or use their official app.**

☑ **Change default settings that came with your wireless router. This is the electronic box from the Wi-Fi provider that plugs into the jack on the wall.**

First, change the name of your Wi-Fi network to something that doesn't include your name or address. Then, change the default password it came with. Make the password at least 12 characters long and avoid using common words like "password" or numbers in a pattern like "1234."

☑ **In the "Settings" area of your Wi-Fi account, turn on "WPA2" encryption.**

It may already be turned on, but if not, activating it will make the information on your Wi-Fi signal much harder for cybercrooks to use.

☑ **Require your approval for a new device to join your home network.**

Some newer routers give you the option of manually approving every device that wants to join your Wi-Fi network. Activate this setting. It will prevent anyone you don't approve from accessing the network without your knowledge.

☑ **Turn off "Remote Access."**

You may be given the choice to manage your router's settings from other locations. But turn this setting off because if you can access network settings from somewhere else, so can cybercrooks.

☑ **Keep your router's software and firmware up-to-date.**

This can be a complicated process. Do a web search on the "brand and model number" of your router and "how to check for software updates." If you're given an option to install future updates automatically, consider choosing "yes."

☑ **Use a cable instead of Wi-Fi to connect your primary computer to your home network.**

This creates a more secure connection, and it may also improve the quality when you're on a video chat.

☑ **Consider installing and paying for "VPN" software.**

VPNs scramble data you send over the web as you work online so it can't be captured and viewed along the way to its destination. Do a web search to compare prices and user reviews.

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