

## Re: how do I secure my Wi-Fi network

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\\_web/2004-07/1281.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2004-07/1281.html)

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**Date:** 07/10/04

Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 10:03:53 +0100

The older standard, 802.11b (11Mb/s) has an encryption scheme called WEP, which uses keys of either 64bit or 128bit (stronger). WEP is always off by default, and most folk don't turn it off, which is why some of them get hacked. WEP isn't proof against a highly skilled, determined and patient hacker if you send a lot of data over your links without rotating the keys now and then, but such people won't be interested in investing that much time and effort in the likes of you and me unless we have something they really want. Even then, WEP is enough of a barrier that they would be likely to consider getting access by some other method, including physical access to a machine. So, unless you have something valuable to hide, turn on WEP and you'll be way beyond the "low-hanging-fruit" category. Rotate the keys every month (depends on data volumes, so may be more often) and you'll be very difficult to hack. (Most configurations allow for the storage of four keys which you can then select one by one).

The later standard, 802.11g, supports something called WPA, which is designed to be much harder to crack, even by experts. I bought a set of kit which supports it (US Robotics) so that I'd be familiar with it in case a paranoid customer demanded it, but I don't use it myself as I want to be able to connect up my PDA, which is 802.11b.

I'd advise buying 802.11g kit anyway, as it has higher bandwidth (54Mb/s) and better range. Of course, if you're really paranoid, range might not be an advantage! The older kit (802.11b, and that's what it'll be if it doesn't specify) is getting very cheap now.

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## PH, London

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"Qa" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:2a01401c46602\$e9eae670\$a501280a@phx.gbl...

> I want to switch my network from cable to wireless. But  
> with all the talk of unauthorised people able to access  
> wireless networks to log on, I'm concerned as to how  
> secure wireless networking really is. Can wireless  
> networking be set in a way to prevent unauthorised access  
> to any of aspect of the network, including internet and  
> most of all file sharing? How do I go about it? Any ideas  
> of good, simple websites? Thanks