

## Re: Wireless Access Point on external router?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2007-05/msg01364.html>

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- *From:* "Dave Nickason [SBS MVP]" <[gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 8 May 2007 17:42:38 -0400
- 

The security configuration Owen has documented uses WPA2, which is currently the most secure. What you gain with Owen's method is that once you configure it, it will work automatically for any wireless client PC that you apply the settings to. So for example, I have it deployed domain-wide, so any wireless client I add to my domain will be automatically configured, receive the necessary security certificate, etc.

The only two issues that come to mind with WPA2 PSK are that each device has to be configured manually, and that if a user can copy the pre-shared key out of the configuration settings, that user could give access to an unauthorized device. So for example a disgruntled employee could configure his/her own laptop up for network access without your knowledge. I'm not sure how easy it is to copy that information on a properly configured and fully patched client PC, or if it can even be done.

With Owen's method, because the SBS and the client PC are mutually authenticating when the client PC starts up, things like WSUS will work without a user login, as they do with wired clients. You may lose some of that "wired equivalent" functionality with PSKs, but that's probably not a major obstacle when compared to losing VPN access the other way (unless you switch to RWW and stop caring about VPN).

"doucettea" <[doucettea@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:doucettea@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:926511A2-B59E-4F4A-99F8-E215E2840764@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:926511A2-B59E-4F4A-99F8-E215E2840764@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

So, WPA with PSKs will be enough? That's great news, and less of a headache.

I'll only have a few wireless connections anyway.

If WPA2 is not enough security for some reason, please let me know.

Otherwise, I'll implement this.

Thanks again,

Ari

"Dave Nickason [SBS MVP]" wrote:

As Owen says in the document, that configuration will break VPN. I can't

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imagine that you're going to want to put in a second server to do RADIUS (although if you already have a second server, it can do RADIUS as well – it's not a high impact service). What I would do is to either use RWW instead of VPN as Cris suggests, or configure WPA2 manually using pre-shared keys. The primary disadvantages to PSK are the additional labor to set up new hardware as you add it, and that users may be able to obtain the key and use it on unauthorized equipment. If you trust the users, and change the pre-shared key when a user leaves, you should be OK with this.

When I use PSKs, I use this to get a random 63-character key. (Not all equipment will take a 64-character key).  
<https://www.grc.com/passwords.htm>

"doucettea" <doucettea@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:D0CF64B7-F286-4FD6-A11A-BF11A0F0BD6B@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:D0CF64B7-F286-4FD6-A11A-BF11A0F0BD6B@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Dave,  
In the article you linked to about setting up 802.11x on SBS for the WAP, there is a caveat that VPN might not work. Of course, I would like to have VPN and good wireless security, so is there a workaround? How likely is VPN to stop working (we do use ISA 2004)? The article mentions that using RADIUS would fix this, but that it would be used instead of Windows Authenticaion for VPN connections? What does this mean, practically? The article also mentions that getting a RADIUS server would be necessary. We don't have an additional server available. Are the "free RADIUS servers" mentioned by the article OK? I guess I'm starting to get into something more involved than I expected for setting up secure wireless and having VPN connectivity. Am

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I overly  
concerned?  
Thanks,  
Ari

"Dave Nickason [SBS MVP]" wrote:

I don't use Linksys WAPs at the office, but I do use them at home, and at the homes of anyone I support for wireless. I've been completely happy with them.

At the office, I've wanted to use a commercial quality WAP instead of a home-quality device. I use 3Coms, and I'm very happy with them. I've got to say, for the one or two users at home and the six or so at the office, I haven't really seen a difference in reliability or functionality between the two brands. I've recently seen a lot of favorable comments about DLink, but don't have any personal experience with them.

With wireless, every device has to support the settings you want to use.

I recommend getting one with a good range of features so it doesn't become the weak point in your deployment plans. Specifically, I would not purchase a device that does not support "WPA2

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Enterprise" security.

"doucettea"

<doucettea@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

[news:A9ECBBC4-0089-4B09-834A-939C1702F463@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:A9ECBBC4-0089-4B09-834A-939C1702F463@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Thank you, Dave. I'm using  
SBS premium, ISA, 2 NICs.

So, per your  
suggestion,

I shouldn't put the WAP  
outside of ISA. Instead, I  
should put the  
WAP

on  
the  
internal switch.

Can you recommend a good  
(cheap, for small  
home-based office) WAP?

Is  
the  
Linksys WRT54gL the way  
to go for the WAP (as it is  
recommended in

other  
recent posts)?

Is the Dlink di804hv OK for  
the router/firewall (since I'm  
also

using  
ISA)?

It is also recommended in  
other posts.

Thanks again,  
Ari

"Dave Nickason [SBS  
MVP]" wrote:

Is this SBS  
Standard or  
Premium?  
If it's  
Premium, I  
would not  
use

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a  
device  
outside of  
ISA to  
provide  
LAN  
access. If  
you're using  
the router  
as  
the  
firewall  
device,  
without  
ISA, then  
you can use  
a  
combination  
wireless  
device  
such as a  
Sonicwall.  
I'd be  
reluctant to  
use a  
low-priced  
NAT  
device  
in  
this way.

What I  
think would  
be the best  
practice: get  
a good  
quality  
non-wireless  
firewall that  
you're  
comfortable  
with. Get a  
separate  
WAP and  
install  
it  
with these  
instructions.  
This will  
give you the  
appropriate

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security  
for  
both the  
perimeter  
and the  
internal  
wireless  
network.

Configuring  
Secure  
Wireless  
Network  
Access with  
Microsoft®  
Windows®  
Small  
Business  
Server 2003  
<http://home.comcast.net/~clearviewtc/>

"doucettea"  
<doucettea@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in  
message  
<news:52DA73CF-66B8-4831-BE3C-AB429F8E8ABF@xxxxxxxxxx>

Hi  
all,  
Is  
it  
possible  
to  
use  
the  
wireless  
access  
from  
a  
router/firewall  
between  
the  
SBS  
external  
NIC  
and  
the  
cable  
modem  
for

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access  
to  
the  
internal  
network?  
I  
need  
to  
get  
a  
new  
router/firewall  
to  
put  
between  
the  
SBS  
and  
the  
cable  
modem  
b/c  
VPN  
isn't  
working  
through  
the  
current  
one.  
I'd  
also  
like  
to  
replace  
the  
WAP  
we've  
been  
using  
because  
it  
doesn't  
have  
the  
greatest  
security  
(it  
currently  
connects  
by  
cat5

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to  
the  
switch  
on  
the  
internal  
network).  
Could  
all  
of  
this  
be  
accomplished  
with  
one  
device  
(like  
the  
Linksys  
WRT54gL)?  
Or  
do  
I  
need  
to  
buy  
a  
new  
router/firewall  
(Dlink  
di804hv  
?)  
and  
then  
add  
the  
WAP  
to  
the  
switch  
on  
the  
inside  
(still  
go  
with  
the  
Linksys)?  
Thanks,  
Ari

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