



Good Day <First Name:78>,

I am rolling out another brief set of tidbits for all the supporters of Evtechie. I have gained a few new clients through the positive words of many of you and appreciate all the support that you give. This month's articles include information on a critical security patch needed for one of Cisco's wireless Linksys routers. I am once again avoiding the topic of the "Messy Desktop" issue to make way for newer scams that are worth understanding. There should be a thing or two you can gleam from this month's issues.

#### Featured Notes:

- Is your wireless network missing something?
- Managing the complications of a messy desktop
- Techie Tip

#### ~\* Is your WiReLe\$\$ Network missing something? \*~

We often take for granted that once we have something running well it may not require any more maintenance - if it works, don't fix it. What more do we worry about? However, Cisco systems recently released a notice about a security flaw with one of the Wireless Linksys Routers- WRT54G 802.11g - The flaw gives hackers a free pass into the Web-based configuration page of the router when the firewall function is turned off. So what does this mean to you??

Well, let me tell you about my trip to Key West! (Huh? What does that have to do with Wireless Routers??) As we took the long road down, I had my laptop on to watch a movie or two (Yeah, I use my laptop for movies all the time) and every few minutes while traveling on the Florida Turnpike my wireless NIC would pick up the signal of wireless networks that were unsecured along the way. Had we taken a stop, I could easily have played around and checked for the availability of network resources and even begun poking around in shared folders and printed pages on network printers. Essentially, if I were a real hacker, knowing that EVERY router you buy in the store has the same IP address (each brand has it's own, but that info is available on web sites for the manufactures) I could have really messed around with networks not securely set up. This vulnerability meant that if a person DID properly set up thier network with security, a hacker could still bypass things and make a mess. This flaw could be detrimental to businesses that harvest information on their clients or your quickbooks account holding dozens of account numbers!

You can read more on this particular article. Whether or not you have

this particular router- ALWAYS secure your wireless network properly by setting security codes and ensuring that only YOUR machines can actually access the network. If you set up your own network, I expect you poked around with settings. If you didn't and you aren't sure please let me know- I have a wonderful contact who is key to the college's network setup. I have been referring him to clients because of his knowledge in this area, and his professionalism.

Always (when using high speed and/or using a network)

- ensure you have a firewall
- ensure you are secured properly
- keep up to date antivirus

If you would like to read about the security flaw see the article here:  
[http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105\\_2-5226918.html?tag=zdn.alert](http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105_2-5226918.html?tag=zdn.alert)

### **This Month on Evtechie.com...**

One of the latest scams to begin filtering into your inbox are "phishing" excursions by criminals. What exactly are they "phishing" for? Your vital and personal information. Anything from passwords and login identification to your social security numbers. I've taken some wonderful information from Yahoo!'s security sites and paraphrased for your education~

Go visit [Evtechie!](#)

### **TechieTip...**

#### **Installing a Firewall....**

A Firewall is a simple utility that virtually "hides" your system when connected to the internet, and keeps track of all the internet requests coming both in and out of your computer. A wonderful FREE firewall tool can be found at the following website.

[http://smb.sygate.com/products/spf\\_standard.htm](http://smb.sygate.com/products/spf_standard.htm)

Just remember that a firewall has to learn your "surfing" habits, and will be a chronic nag until you train it. It will ask you to give permission to any application that seeks a connection to a network or the internet. If you have my favorite antivirus (PcCillin) it will come equipped with it's own firewall. Wondering if you need a firewall?? Well, if you have high speed access like DSL, or Road Runner, you should be running a firewall!

### **Coming Next Time**

Your Virtual Desktop- how messy is it? How to manage the junk on your desktop and find what you need! (Yeah, we'll see if I ever get this one written!!)

Until then, I thank you for your continued support and wish you a Merry May!

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