

HOW TO HELP KEEP YOUR LOCAL HOME/OFFICE “WI FI” NETWORK SECURE!

This past weekend the FBI reported that more than 500,000 consumer and small office routers were compromised by a Russian hacking group that utilize the routers for access to users data, malware exploits and coordinated denial of service attacks.

The hack hit routers made by Netgear, Linksys, TP-Link, Mikrotik & others. Most homes and offices have one of the first two manufacturers' routers serving as their network access point for their system. The most concerning part of the news is that infected routers could have exposed passwords, credit card numbers, and other sensitive personal data that passed through your home or office network. Even using secure sites on a infected router is as good as handing the information to the hackers.

The fast and simple blocker offered up by the FBI was to reboot the router. The FBI seized a domain previously owned by the hackers and it now points to an FBI server. This will cause an infected router to ping the FBI server with the users IP address and in-turn allow them to alert the party of the hack, at some point.

That doesn't clear the infection. It is important to keep your routers firmware software up to date to ensure known security holes are closed.

You might be asking yourself what is a 'Router'?

Routers are the box that host Wi Fi servers in most homes and offices. A compromised router means all the data that moves between the computers connected to that network can be exposed to a hacker. Most of the router manufacturers have released firmware software updates that can close the known security hole. However these don't install automatically. You have to connect to the router, login to it, and run the updates from advanced settings screens that vary by router.

Click on the below Links for additional information:

<https://www.metacompliance.com/blog/top-10-tips-to-protect-your-home-wi-fi-network/>

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-secure-your-home-wi-fi-network>

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