



DEFINING AND ESTABLISHING SECURE NETWORKS E. Skidmore

On 7.23.03 The iMET Quincs (a unique blend of iMEt 4 and iMet 5, joined together to complete: EDTE 286: Special Topics in Educational Technology) were given a small group assignment for the Tapped In session.

The Topic: Security Concerns

The Assignment

Part 1. The Activity: ...”come up with a collaboratively defined "Top 10" egregious errors in your locale's (office or school) security implementation and, further, an explanation of how these errors could be resolved including: (a) the level of complexity and (b) the cost associated with resolving them.”.

<http://imet.csus.edu/classes/286/imet5/tappedin/7.23.03.htm>

Group 10 – Online Networking

Group # 10- Glenn, Gray, Ellen, Roberta, & Willie (note the numerical significance) eagerly and intensely attacked the activity. The following PDF is an overview of our work with extra ‘STYLE POINTS’ to Glenn.

The Assignment

Part 2. ...”Using your group discussion and the reading as a guide, please outline a security plan that addresses current errors, omissions, or 'holes' in security within your own locus of control (e.g., a home area network, security in a computer lab, security at the school or district level, etc.).”

Various pieces of the information contained in the group work are applicable to the network existing at my school site. However, for the most part, as long as I maintain the Technology Center and class networks and passwords, and the district maintains the office setup, which is on a separate T1, we stay in a fairly secure position, as networks go.

I therefore chose to look at my LOC and attack the network security issues I created when I aggressively ripped open the box containing my online purchased Airport Extreme, and hastily set it up, throwing caution to the air along with my wireless connectivity.



I based the need for a wireless home network directly on the demands for Internet access placed upon my son, a CSUS student as well as myself. My home wireless network has nothing to do with greed for speed, self-indulgence, or any twisted need for new toys. The fact that several computers can be online, inside the house and on patios, at the same time, is simply a residual perk.

My Security Home Network Issues

Initial reflection and research has produced the following ...”current errors, omissions, or 'holes' in security...” within my home network, and methods I have or will establish to reign in security on my network.

Issues:

1. Data Loss
2. Secure Connectivity
3. Passwords

Issue 1. Data Loss

At this moment in my life, ten months away from the end of an online journey where 2 small letters await me, loss of data, whether due to human error, equipment failure, or act of God, or hacker, is my priority issue.

Solution: Backup; habitual and paranoid backup. I transfer current data between 2 computers weekly, save each piece of pertinent work/project to Cds, and keep a complete set of must have files on an external drive.

Cost: Time; adequate storage setup to house files

Issue 2. Secure Connectivity

[Yale Information Technology Services](#)...”While any machine connected to the Internet is susceptible to intrusion and subsequent damage or pilfering of data, those connected via DSL or Cable Modem have somewhat greater exposure due to the fact that they are connected and accessible as long as the machine is powered up. It is strongly recommended that DSL and Cable Modem users protect their data through use of "firewall" software or hardware...”

<http://www.yale.edu/its/>

Solution: Pull in my wireless range. Rotate administrator password, and download latest Airport software for patches

http://www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/apple/airport_3_1.html

Issue 3. Passwords

SecureMac.com  

“There is security issue with Oxs when a password is required upon waking from the Screen Effects feature, which could allow an unauthorized user access to the desktop of the logged in user...:

Solution: I habitually shut down my computer when not in use

Cost: Time waiting to restart

<http://www.securemac.com/>

I am continuing my investigation into my home network security and look forward to the plethora of information my fellow quincis will most assuredly provide.