

Computer Security

During the recent Cyber Log 2010 conference I was able to attend briefings throughout the two day conference. All of the briefings that I attended had a similar theme...SECURITY. During these briefings the presenters discussed the importance of proper security techniques like locking down the computers and their operating systems. Mr David Strom, President David Strom Incorporated, discussed the importance of locking down your systems, "encryption needs to be the rule, not the exception" <http://www.slideshare.net/davidstrom/google-versus-china-the-first-cyber-war>. Another security item discussed in all briefings was the importance of keeping passwords private, do not keep them written down in plain sight so that someone could just walk up and see them.

An easy deterrent is changing the default passwords when installing new hardware like WiFi routers, workstations, servers, etc. By leaving the new hardware password as defaults you are making it easy for hackers to gain access to your equipment.

There are many options when it comes to computer security, but the most important thing is to be doing something about it; ensuring computers are protected with some type of anti-virus is a start, but there is much more you can do depending on how sensitive the data you are trying to protect is.

Along with these security concerns, another concern is laptop security. With the increase in laptops, they have become enticing targets. The first step is ensuring you have set up a username/password to log into the laptop. While traveling, ensure you have physical control of your laptop at all times. There are individuals out there who would like to get a hold of your laptop only for a few minutes to log in and place tracking software on it so that the next time you connect to the internet, they are able to remote into your machine and have full access to your files/software.

While there are many aspects of computer security, the important part is to be doing whatever is necessary to ensure your information is kept secure. There are many websites available to assist you in ensuring your equipment/data is secure. The more vital the information, the more protection you should have.

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