

Topic:

Networking Computers

Definitions:

Network – When multiple computers are connected together for the purposes of sharing resources, such as a printer or file server.

Router – A digital networking device that directs computer communication traffic from a computer network to other routers or computer networks, like the internet.

Firewall – A system designed to prevent unauthorized access to a private computer network.

Wi-Fi (why f-eye) – A wireless network that allows computers or wireless digital devices, like smartphones, laptops, and tablets, to connect to the internet, each other, or other networks.

What to Know about Networking:

Most small businesses have 10 computers or less. A network of this size can be easily maintained by a single employee knowledgeable about computers and network connectivity. Networking sometimes requires a lot of cables, which can get tangled and messy if not kept neat and tidy using binding ties and clips. Cables should not be frayed, nicked, worn, or under stress. When there is trouble with the network, a well-organized system will make troubleshooting and fixing a whole lot easier and faster.

Your router is the device that connects directly to the internet, and a firewall monitors traffic to and from your router to make sure no unauthorized traffic gets into or out of your system. If your router is old, consider replacing it, as new devices and software are always upgrading security protections. Choosing the best router should involve a computer professional to get the best fit for your system.

Security for a Wi-Fi system is critical. Wi-Fi networks are normally password protected. Be sure not to choose a password that is too obvious, and don't let your Wi-Fi network's name reflect who you are. For example, if you are operating Joe's Tacos, your official Wi-Fi network should not mention tacos. There are public-access Wi-Fi networks that can be established with that in mind. Never give your password to anyone outside of your company. If an employee leaves your company, it's a good idea to change your Wi-Fi password.

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