TJMicro Tech Tips

Working From Home Securely

With the transition to working from home, we are open to new vulnerabilities that may impact the security and privacy of our work. Often, we are unsure of what security measures we need to take to ensure that our data is protected – and even if we know some, are we sure that it's enough? Below, I've highlighted the top tips to help you feel more secure and protected while working from home.

1) **Use your firewall's Virtual Private Network (VPN) to access files remotely**
   - Using VPN access ensures that you are connected to a secure network, even if you are on a public network.
   - A secure VPN will encrypt transferred data, protecting it from being compromised.
2) **Double check that your Windows is up to date**
   - There are frequent Windows updates to improve the security of your system. By using a previous version, or not updating to the recent version, it leaves your system vulnerable to security breaches.
3) **Update your antivirus software and firewall firmware**
   - Make sure your antivirus software and firewall firmware are updated – these updates are designed to protect your system from new threats as they evolve.
4) **Change your password from p@SSw0rd to something more secure**
   - Although it seems simpler to have one password for all your accounts, it poses a huge security risk. Change your passwords every 30 days, and use a combination of letters (upper and lowercase), numbers, and special characters to create passwords that are harder to guess.
   - If you're having difficulty remembering all your passwords, use a secure Password Manager to store them.
5) **Reset your WiFi router password**
   - WiFi routers are an easy target for scammers. Often, the default password provided by your Internet Service Provider is not secure enough, leaving your Wi   Fi router exposed. Changing this default password to a more secure option will help protect you while you work remotely.
6) **Limit who has access to your work**
   - Ideally, your work computer should be separate from your "home" computer and should only be accessed by you. However, we know this isn't always the case, and sometimes you need to share devices with other members of your family. In this case, you should have a separate, password protected work account on your device that only you know the password to.

These measures are the starting point for protecting your data while working from home. However, for further guidance on your specific needs, reach out to your IT support or TJMicro Ltd to ensure you are taking all the steps necessary to maximize your security.

Kyle Hacker is the CEO of TJMicro Ltd – your complete source for professional IT services. Kyle has diverse experience in managing professional IT services and strives to meet the needs of all his clients. TJMicro Ltd provides tailored services to organizations of all sizes and across the private and public sector. To find out more about what TJMicro can do to help support your business, contact Kyle at kyle@tjmicro.com.

If you have any questions about security and privacy, please contact TJMicro Ltd by phone at 416-317-6000 or email at info@tjmicro.com.

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