

Tech Tips

This article is one in our ongoing series on technology tips. We hope you enjoy it.

Wireless Networking: Addressing Security, Performance, and Cost Concerns

Many businesses view wireless as a risky technology, citing security concerns and a perception that it is too expensive and slow. However, wireless technology continues to advance at a blistering pace, with speeds progressing from 11 Mbps to 108 Mbps in the last few years alone. Likewise, costs associated with these products have plummeted.

A wireless network offers businesses many advantages, such as

- ~Increased productivity: work anywhere, anytime
- ~Flexibility: rearrange or move around your office with no need to rewire
- ~Professionalism: enhance customer service with wireless Internet access for visitors
- ~Image: present a clean, organized environment.

However, there are security precautions you must consider. It is not enough to set up a wireless connection and simply broadcast your signal with no attention to access control. Theoretically, a wireless savvy individual could gain access to your company network.

Simple, precautionary techniques help lock down your wireless network and prevent unauthorized access.

Below are a few tips you can easily employ:

1. Change the default passwords on your wireless access point or router.
2. Turn on wireless encryption protocol (WEP).

Although not perfect, WEP helps deter the inexperienced hacker.

3. Turn off broadcasting and create a unique service set identifier (SSID name).
4. Use access lists if possible to specify precisely those PCs and laptops you grant access to your wireless network.

This list is not comprehensive; however, it will help protect your wireless network from casual unauthorized access. Having a professional install your network will provide you with the most secure, efficient wireless environment, and save you time and money in the long run.

With a little preparation, businesses, no matter what size, can take advantage of all the benefits a wireless network has to offer.

This month's edition of Tech Tips is provided courtesy of Keith Bamford, CEO of **Daystar Computer Services**. For questions or comments, please contact Keith at 603-766-5924 or through e-mail at kbamford@daystarinc.com.

Tech Tips is a feature on technology-related issues. The material is submitted for distribution by Chamber members and printed as a service; therefore, the accuracy of the information is not guaranteed by the Chamber. If you are interested in contributing to this newsletter, please contact Kristin Sawyer at 603-742-2218 or at kristin@dovernb.org.

Other News

Your Voice Counts, Speak Out!

How is the economy affecting your business? What's your outlook for 2005? Are rising fuel prices hurting your business? The U.S. Chamber of Commerce wants to know! Respond to the following four questions by visiting www.uschamber.com/speakout. The results will be posted in the future. Make your voice count.

1. How would you describe the current economic environment for your business?
2. What are your hiring plans for the next six months?
3. How are you responding to increased fuel costs?
4. What is the greatest challenge facing your business in the next six months?

While visiting the web site, review the Chamber's Small Business Center for helpful tips and tools.

Children's Home Welcomes Members

Chamber members enjoyed an evening of networking and socializing on Wednesday, February 16 at the **Dover Children's Home** during the recent Business Open House. Attendees learned about the history, mission, and treatment successes of the Home, which has been located and operating at 207 Locust Street since 1897.

The facility offers residential treatment service for adolescents, focusing on nurturing and promoting life skills. Board members and staff from the Home were on hand to answer questions and to give tours of the facility.

The evening concluded with the awarding of several raffle prizes donated generously from the following businesses: **Nicole's Hallmark, Harvey's Bakery and Coffee Shop, Blue Latitudes, Susie's Bittersweet Treasures, New England Coffee, Handy Hardware, and Computer Troubleshooters of the Western Great Bay.**

To learn more about Dover Children's Home or to request a tour of the facilities, please contact Deirdra "Dee" D. Brown at 603-742-4289.

Maximize Your Membership

How does Chamber membership benefit you? Have you ever really considered this question?

Do you take advantage of your membership? How? What else could you do to maximize your involvement?

We are seeking testimonials to use in some of the Chamber publications and promotional materials. It's another chance to get your business name in print.

Send information to Kristin Sawyer at kristin@dovernh.org or call 603-742-2218.