300 Main Street, Coopersville, MI 49404
616.997.TECH(8324)
Fax 616.997.9317

206 Washington, Grand Haven, MI 49417
616.842.TECH(8324)

3489 Kelly Street, Hudsonville, MI 49426
616.669.TECH(8324)

From the War Room: Russia is Targeting Our Routers

by Jeff Verry

On April 16 cyber security agencies in the United States and Great Britain jointly issued warnings that the Russian government is specifically targeting Internet routers. These attacks have been going on for years. Specifically, they aim "to conduct man-in-the-middle attacks to support espionage, extract intellectual property, maintain persistent access to their victims networks, and potentially lay a foundation for future offensive operations." For more information see the report at : **https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA18-106A**

This carries a huge risk for our networks in the office or at home. However, no reported exploits are known at this time. It is like someone knows the code to unlock your car, but no one has broken into it, yet.

What is a router? Your router is the device that allows multiple phones, computers, gaming systems and the like to connect the Internet. It may be built into the device you get from your cable or DSL company. It might be something separate that you purchased, sometimes called a firewall.

A couple of pointers to keep in mind:

1. This is a big deal. As the security reports have put it: "Whoever controls the routing infrastructure of a network essentially controls the data flowing through the network." This kind of report is unusual and should be taken seriously.

2. This is global. Routers are everywhere. It could be in your living room or office. If you have more than one device accessing the Internet at a time, you have a router. If you have a router, you could be at risk.

3. There has not been an attack, yet. This potential is huge (because of the above), but no one has been hacked yet…that we know of.

What should you do?

1. Update your firmware. If you purchased a router or a firewall and are unsure whether the firmware (the software that runs it) is up to date, now is the time to get that checked out. *CCS Technologies* regularly recommends upgrades and updates to SonicWALL clients, but we can do a checkup on demand for you whether you use this brand firewall or any other device.

2. Replace your equipment if needed. If you have an older router, you may need to consider replacing it. As with any other technology, routers eventually reach "End of Life" and are no longer supported by their manufacturer.

3. If you have any questions on anything above, do not hesitate to call *CCS Technologies*. We can make recommendations and offer assistance, often remotely or right over the phone.

Improve Your Wi-Fi – Affordably

by Joe Halstead

CCS Technologies has long been a fan of Unifi products. We were first drawn to the high-end business (enterprise) wireless access points. Once configured correctly, we found Unifi's performance for high density wireless networks far outweighed its competitors.

We were so impressed with the performance provided by the access points, we started to test other products provided by Unifi. After comparing a Unifi switch & router to our current recommended products, we were surprised they were on par, especially considering the cost savings for the Unifi products. Unfortunately, the products lacked easy remote management.

Then came the Unifi Cloud Key, which is designed for small to medium sized businesses and would also fit the need for high end residential users. This device is powered by PoE (Power over Ethernet) or USB and consumes very little power and is a single item purchase (no reoccurring costs). This tiny device would allow you and/or your IT provider to easily make changes from anywhere in the world that you have access to the Internet, including updating the devices to the latest firmware with a click of a button.

This will keep your network performance optimal, as well as making it easy to troubleshoot any issues, or perform changes. We think this makes Unifi a one-stop-shop for enterprise level networking.

Not only can these business-grade switches, controllers and wireless access points upgrade your security and capabilities, they do so at an extremely low cost! For a limited time we are taking $50 off when you bundle Unifi equipment (see ad to the right) to upgrade your network. Call us today with any questions or ask for a free quote!

"Relax...we're on IT"

Contact Information

Information	Info@ccstech.net
Tech Support	Support@ccstech.net
Sales	Sales@ccstech.net
Greg Slater	Gslater@ccstech.net
Ellen Slater	Eslater@ccstech.net
Drew Rowe	Drowe@ccstech.net
Jeff Verry	Jverry@ccstech.net
Joe Halstead	Jhalstead@ccstech.net
Jorge Arias	Jarias@ccstech.net
Karen Strickland	Kstrickland@ccstech.net
Mark Kowitz	Mkowitz@ccstech.net
Ryan McMillen	Rmcmillen@ccstech.net
Eric Ruzek	Eruzek@ccstech.net
Seth Johnson	Sjohnson@ccstech.net
Nick Dykstra	Ndykstra@ccstech.net

CCS Technologies Store Hours

Coopersville Store
Mon-Fri 8 - 5:30 & Sat 9:30 - 12:00

Grand Haven Store
Mon-Thu 9 - 6 & Fri 10 - 6
Sat 10 - 3

Hudsonville Store
Mon-Thu 9 - 6 & Fri 10- 6
Sat 10 – 1