CICADA | RESOURCES

NETWORK | 45 MIN | ESSENTIAL | UPDATED NOVEMBER 2026

Separate your Wi-Fi from your business

Guest network, changed router password, current firmware. Three changes that close a very common door.

The short version

- ✓ Put visitors and personal devices on a separate network.
- ✓ Change the router's admin password and disable remote administration.
- ✓ Update firmware and check it quarterly.
- ✓ Keep payment terminals and IoT on their own network where possible.

Create a guest network

Most business routers support a guest SSID or a separate VLAN. Move visitors, personal phones and smart devices there. Business laptops, the till and shared drives stay on the main network. Set a guest password you're happy to change, and turn off client-to-client access if the option exists.

If your router can't do this, it may be time to replace it. A business-grade router with VLANs is not expensive compared with a single incident.

Lock down the router

- Change the default admin password to a long, unique one stored in the password manager.
- Turn off remote administration from the internet unless you specifically need it.
- Use WPA2 or WPA3; never leave an open network for business use.
- Enable automatic firmware updates, or check monthly.

- Change the default Wi-Fi password that came on the box.

Segment the risky things

Payment terminals, CCTV, printers and smart devices often run old software and don't need to talk to your accounts system. Put them on their own network if you can. At minimum, don't let them share the same flat network as payroll and customer data.

> REMOTE WORK
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> Home routers are not business infrastructure. Require work devices to use the company VPN or zero-trust access, and don't rely on home Wi-Fi security.

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Action checklist

- [ ] Guest network enabled and in use
- [ ] Router admin password changed
- [ ] Remote administration disabled
- [ ] WPA2/WPA3 enabled
- [ ] Firmware current and checked quarterly
- [ ] IoT and payment devices segmented where possible

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