

CYBER SECURITY AND YOU

March 2019

QUICK TIP

When purchasing anything for your home that will access your home network, make certain it will check for updates and install them without requiring you to do anything.

Do you want to connect to your new refrigerator and install updates on a consistent basis?

Also think about buying a brand that is likely to be around long enough to supply those updates.

Just five years ago, very few people would have realized that something as simple as a light bulb could become a security threat to your home network.



HOME NETWORK SECURITY

There are several things to consider any time you add a device to your home that is part of the **Internet of Things (IoT)**. The IoT is a fancy way to refer to any device that connects to your home network. A fairly standard one is changing the default password. The internet is full of cameras that are mistakenly left open to the world because no one bothered to change the default password.

Enabling automatic updates is important (as I pointed out in my Quick Tip). Since most devices will be around for years, and even the best developers are unable to protect you from flaws that have not yet been discovered, the updates are the only way for you to stay safe.

Why do I care if they hack my light bulb? Other than someone anywhere in the world being able to turn off your light, consider the fact that most security is based on protecting you from outside attacks. If the bad guys can launch an attack from that light bulb inside your network, your router and firewall may assume it is coming from you.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF?

Your best bet is to do the following:

- Keep devices updated.
- Remove unused services.
- Use antivirus software and enable firewalls.
- Enable wireless security and do not leave default passwords.
- Use unique strong passwords with a password manager whenever possible.
- Backup your data often and try to keep a copy outside of your house just in case.

You can find more information at [US-CERT.gov](https://www.us-cert.gov).

As always, your IT team is here to help.