

Securing Customer Premises Wi-Fi Access Network

DoT Regulation on WiFi Security

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Govt. of India, has recently issued a directive dated 23-02-09 to ensure secured use of WiFi based Internet access. Under this directive, all home Internet subscribers are required to ensure that their WiFi networks are secured and cannot be misused. Subscribers are required to register their status with their Internet Service Provider.

There are four methods for securing the access to your Wi-Fi Network. They are briefly given below. More details can be obtained from the Manual of the device and the Manufacturer of the device.

1. Enable WEP/WPA encryption:

This option allows the user to enable the encryption of the data with a key phrase or secret key. Unless the client also has the same keys, the client will not be able to connect with the Wireless Router. Further, since it is generated by the user and chances of any intruder accessing the router will be very remote. Use of WPA is recommended for added security. Use a strong password that is at least eight characters long and is a combination of alphanumeric and special characters.

2. Enabling MAC authentication:

MAC Authentication or MAC binding allows the user to input the MAC address of the PC/Laptop/PDA in the wireless router, for which the access is to be allowed. Router verifies the MAC address of the PC/Laptop/PDA while giving the permission to access the router. This further secures the access to the router.

3. Does not use Common SSID / Disable SSID broadcast:

Use a Wi-Fi network name (SSID) that does not reveal private information (e.g., your identity or location) or You may disable the SSID broadcast.

4. Change the Administrator's Password:

Change the default administrator's password on your Wi-Fi router.

If all the above features are enabled in the Wi-Fi device, then the access to the Wi-Fi Device is more secure and intruders will not be able to misuse the Internet.

CAUTION!

- Data sent over Open WiFi can be easily stolen
- A WEP encryption key can be guessed in minutes
- MAC address filtering and disabling SSID broadcast do not provide adequate protection from WiFi misuse

The link below will take you to a presentation which will give you a better understanding of WiFi access points configuration.

[*Wi-Fi Access points – Configuration for secured connections*](#)

