

Information Security for the Home – An Introduction

Information security is a term used to describe the process of protecting information and services from misuse or destruction. When we use the term in the context of the home, we use it to describe the steps we take to make sure that our computers, the information we have stored on it, and the people who use it are kept safe from harm. Unfortunately, information security in the home is often overlooked. But by taking a few moments to learn a few key concepts and concerns, you can make sure that you are keeping your family and your information safe.

Goals of Information Security

Let's start by investigating the purpose of information security. We want to achieve three main goals by practicing good information security. Other goals, such as the safety of your children and the privacy of your personal information, depend upon these goals:

- **Confidentiality:** Information is available only to those who rightfully have access to it.
- **Integrity:** Information should be modified only by those who are authorized to do so.
- **Availability:** Information should be accessible to those who need it when they need it.

Information Security Strategies

Most homeowners take steps to protect their homes by installing locks on their doors, smoke detectors in the hallway, or even a security system. Obviously, we do these things for several reasons, but primarily to keep our families and our possessions safe. It is the same with information security. An unsecured computer is an invitation to browse through your and your family's life. To keep this from happening and to achieve the above goals, we use three strategies:

- **Prevention:** This strategy represents the need to install the proper software and/or hardware and take the proper precautions in order to stop an attack before it occurs.
- **Detection:** This strategy represents the need to keep your system up to date on the latest types of attacks in order to understand when your PC has been damaged or is at a high risk.
- **Recovery:** This strategy represents the need to form a plan of action in order to reverse, if possible, damage done to your computer and/or personal information after an attack has occurred.

This following collection of newsletters will help to educate you on the possible risks of not keeping up-to-date on information security measures, how different attacks can affect you, and how to prevent damage to your computer and/or personal information. Focusing on the above goals and strategies while reading this collection of newsletters will not only help you to better understand the specifics of information security, but it will also help you to learn how to better implement these practices into your home.