

# About Technology



## The Growing Need of Network Security

By Rogelio Frederick, Digital Collective

The digital age is one that brings with it changes and advancements on everyday concepts. These trends go by many names – automation, mechanization, and smart tech to name a few. The movement is also referred to as “the internet of things.” Some can argue that these changes can be considered a negative aspect of our society as the years go by. Jobs are disappearing, businesses are getting left behind, parts are harder to replace and older generations of the public struggle to adapt. Even with all of these facts the other side of the spectrum highly agrees that these innovations are inevitable and necessary. New generations almost feel as if they couldn’t even live without these new technologies, such as smartphones and tablets. As people we’ve grown accustomed to certain luxuries, smart home tech is more powerful than ever. However it’s analyzed, the point being made here is that with the current flow of advancements, whether you approve or condemn these changes, you’ll need to fight



harder to avoid smart tech than to adapt.

The concern however shouldn’t be whether or not we should accept new technology. The concern should be with the number of security threats that accompany these developments.

Network security is a concept that goes back to the early days of computing. Hacking, identity fraud, spyware are just a few of the threats users are at risk of dealing with. Computers and phones are no longer the only things vulnerable to attack. Creating an internet of objects creates an array of openings for attackers. The state of computing was never 100% safe, items that are already in everyday life are vulnerable.



Kid’s toys, heart pacers, cars, traffic lights, and even baby monitors can be hacked. The safety and privacy concerns involved are endless. They seem to only grow with the possibility of an internet of household appliances.

**Shutdowns:** The most blatant of the risks of having technological embedding in all of your household appliances is the ability to turn your tech on or off at will.

**Surveillance:** Surveillance cameras and even Smart TVs are susceptible to compromise. Cameras connected via Wi-Fi are connected to the web and as a result have a way of entry. Smart TVs are equipped with cameras and microphones as well.

**Theft:** Having google connectivity to every aspect of your life seems convenient – even letting users own digital wallets to have monetary value at all times. Google also allows for connecting your Gmail accounts to remotely integrate your phones to all your smart technologies. This gives a connection to your personal information

like address, email, IP, digital wallets, and more. Making remote connectivity makes for convenience for us and more access for hackers.

With the prevalent threats constantly looming over all of the potential in these developments, one would assume it would be best to possibly avoid the purchasing of products that employ the “smart” integration methods. Some products can still be modern without needing to connect to the internet, appliances like washers and dryers come to mind. Also security methods should be employed on every level. Secure your Wi-Fi, create multiple at home networks for your different pieces of tech, disable smart interactivity where it’s not necessary, and keep your personal info out of your internet of things.

Staying too safe stifles innovation, but getting too accustomed to innovation keeps us from being completely safe. Finding that medium is what’s necessary for us to truly enjoy the advancements of the future comfortably.

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