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None

Over the past decade wireless networks have become an essential part of both business and personal computer user. Since the emergence of the first Wireless local area network, ALOHAnet, in 1971, the cost of wireless internet has significantly decreased and the popularity of wireless internet has significantly increased. Wireless communications are convenient, cheap, and fast. In contrast, there are physical limits to the distance that a electrical signal can propagate through a wire, and thus, wired networks are not as convenient or as fast.

With the emergence and growing popularity of wireless networks, significant growth in security mechanisms is required in to ensure the protection of our information. Suddenly our personal information is flying through the air instead of moving through a wire that we can physically see. Should we trust that our information is sent where we think it is? Who can intercept our information as it is transmitted? Is the information arriving at its destination in the same state we sent it?

This paper contains explanations of the major security risks of connecting to a wireless network in hopes that the reader will better understand the vulnerabilities in computer networks. This paper is meant to inform the reader of the major risks involved in using today’s popular wireless technologies, as well as what can be done to ensure the security of wireless networks.