

Network Security in a Wireless World

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Abstract

As the Internet becomes increasingly "wireless", the already considerable security issues facing users are exacerbated. The exposure of information and applications on the Internet to unauthorized disclosure, modification, or denial is increased in one more dimension. In addition, since the Internet quickly is becoming a central component in systems controlling or supporting critical national infrastructures (e.g., banking, electric power distribution, emergency services, etc.), these exposures rise to the level of a national concern. Fortunately, most of the technology and methods currently exist to protect networks, even those that include wireless elements.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has a national mandate to provide standards and guidance for the security of information technology, primarily for the US Government and secondarily for the private sector. NIST, in cooperation with other branches of government and with industry, has been active for many years in assessing risks to information technology systems and networks and in the development of the technology, standards, measurements, and tests needed to protect those systems and networks.

This talk will provide an overview of information technology security, its relevance to wireless technology, and the role of government, industry and others in addressing the need to protect information, systems, and networks.