

# Top **5** Ways to Secure your Home Network

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The home network is often underestimated when it comes to cyber criminals and security. After all, why would a criminal concentrate on one house? The reality is that home networks are often regarded as the low-hanging fruit of the cyber criminal world. With an inherent lack of management, updates, and security in place—all typical of routers and connected devices—the opportunities for a criminal to penetrate these networks is high and with even higher gains.

The secret is to follow a few simple actions that can protect your family, your data, and even your employer—all by limiting access to the network as a whole.



# 1

## Change the default User Name

In most cases, the default networks that are preconfigured within standard routers are all the same—they are simply the ISP name and a 3 to 5 digit number. For instance, when scanning for a network simply look at all the network names within range of your device and you may very well see a lot of repetitive local ISP names.

In this instance, simply navigate to your router in the same way using the IP address, login with your new admin name and password, and choose the tab or section that indicates the network name. Change the name to something that cannot be associated with you or your household, set an appropriate strong password, and save the new settings.

As a further step, create multiple networks for work, for family, and a guest network for friends, etc., so that all devices are separated from one another. For example, connect your work computer to a different network than the home gaming system.



## Change the default Network Name

With innovation driven by customers, industries are being transformed: IT and workforce digitization and increasing competition has hit every industry and has placed pressure on you to digitally transform your company. The end result of digital transformation is, of course, ever-growing data. The more data, and the more ways to access that data, the larger the attack surface—one that is constantly under threat.

# 2



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# 3

## Keep your Router's Software Up-to-Date

Keeping the router's software up-to-date is easy, but commonly overlooked. The easiest way to manage updates is to either schedule a time once a week to login to your router and check if updates are available. In some cases, routers come with mobile apps that enable management and prompts for updates. Furthermore, some ISPs also have web-based portals where you can login and check router status, along with account information and more.



## Make sure Devices on your Network are Secured

An easy way to add an extra layer of security to your network is through the devices that connect to the network itself. Whether it be laptops, desktop devices, tablets, and more, adding antivirus and malware protection, turning on encryption, using a VPN, and so on, will further protect you from outsiders that may attempt to gain access.

# 4

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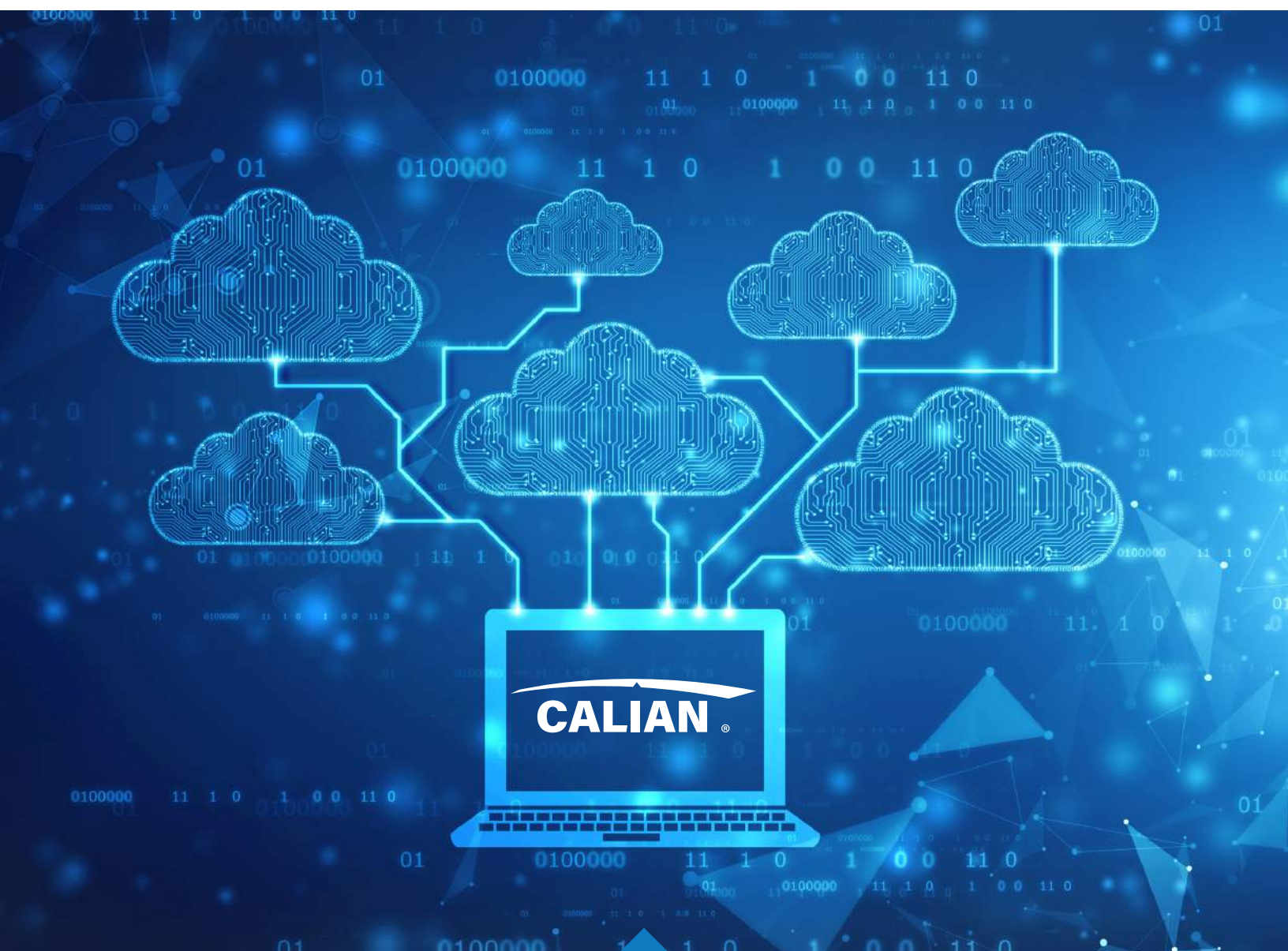
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# 5

## Disable Remote Access

Once again, this is another function that can be done through your router access, app, or ISP portal. In most cases, it's usually as simple as clicking a button or checking a box that reads "Disable Remote Access." This limits access to your network to the confines of your home by not letting anyone login from anywhere else in the world.

Hackers will often try to gain access through remote means to change settings within your router and, therefore, also gain access to network traffic and information — oftentimes being able to access the device itself. By not allowing remote access, cyber criminals have very few ways to reach you.



Contact us for a **free consultation** or to receive a **free Cloud Security Audit** to assess the effectiveness of your current cyber security initiatives.



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