@DeldigiKNOW

DigiKnow
CYBER SECURITY DEPENDS ON YOU

August 2018 Issue

eSecurity Newsletter — How Smart is Your Home?

We increasingly rely on intelligent technology and automation at home — from turning on the lights, turning up the heat, to playing favorite music on demand, or asking about the weather forecast. Voice-activated systems such as Amazon's Alexa and Echo, Google Home, Apple's Siri, doorbells that record video, and smartphone apps that control lights, thermostats, and security are popular home amenities.

What's the Problem?

Without a doubt, these devices provide wonderful features that simplify your life. In addition, as the technology grows you may have no choice but to use smart devices.

However, the more devices connected to your home's network, the more that can go wrong. Hackers can hijack and reprogram your devices to attack others, vendors can collect extensive information on your activities, or your devices could become infected and lock you out.

How Can I Protect My Home?

Connect Only What You Need: The simplest way to secure a device is to not connect it to the Internet. If you don't need your device to be online, don't connect it to your WiFi network. Only connect devices you must be able to access remotely.

Privacy Options: If your device allows you to configure privacy options, limit the amount of information it collects or shares. One option is to simply disable *any* information sharing capabilities.

Guest Network: Consider putting your Smart Home devices on a separate "Guest" WiFi network rather than the primary WiFi network you use for your family's computers and mobile devices.

Keep Updated: Just like your computer and mobile devices, it's critical to keep all of your devices up to date. If your device has the option to automatically update, enable that. (remember: it will need an Internet connection enabled to be able to access its updates).

Always Listening: If a device responds to voice commands, it is constantly listening. Check privacy settings and choose where to place the device in the home.

A FOND FAREWELL TO CSO ELAYNE STARKEY

June 30th was a bittersweet day for many of us at DTI as Elayne Starkey retired from her role as Delaware's Chief Security Officer. An inspiration, mentor and friend to many, Elayne was responsible for developing a statewide cyber safety education and training program for all state government employees. She is recognized nationally as one of governments' cyber security leaders. While Elayne has left DTI, her legacy continues through the many programs she created.

In her own words:

"The memories that seem to be most dominate for me and burned into my brain are all of the 'firsts'. Each one of these is so vivid and strong."

- The first Best of the Web Award
- The first DART cyber security bus wrap
- The first set of security scorecards for the ISOs
- The first graduating class of Delaware Certified Information Officers
- The first meeting of the Cyber Security Advisory Council
- The first US Cyber Challenge summer camp
- The first day the DTI Security Operations Center went live
- The first 4th grade Internet Safety Presentation
- The first phishing email
- The first CISSP Boot Camp

Visit the DTI eSecurity website for previous issues
eSecurity Newsletters

Questions, comments or topic suggestions?
Email us at eSecurity@state.de.us.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION
DELIVERING TECHNOLOGY THAT INNOVATES