

# Northern Computer

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**NEW**



**Got questions?**

Security. Protecting data is a concern for most small businesses. It can be a complicated issue with many areas of concern. Two of our technicians this month discuss wireless security and remote access. Both of these areas often raise concerns about their security and this month, we aim to provide guidance about their security.

## Remote Access & Remote Support

Do you really need to go into work anymore? These days, with the right equipment, you can securely connect to your PC at work. You are provided with a desktop view of your PC. Only

the screenshot images are transferred over the internet between your home and work. Speed is not a problem; you will virtually be in the office! In this article we will explain how this is possible and how we can securely accomplish this. We will also talk about the methods that we use to remotely access your networks and standalone PCs.



You can remotely access any resources in your office via a VPN (Virtual Private Network). There are two common types, remote-access and site-to-site access. This technology is secured with an encrypted tunnel over the internet. Which means you can use your existing broadband internet connection and not pay for pricey dedicated services. Northern Computer uses Cisco equipment most commonly to implement this secure, reliable tunnel.



A remote-access VPN is commonly used for home or mobile users. It uses the VPN software to connect into the office and access common resources such as files, databases,

PCs and terminal servers. These resources can be accessed by logging in from any PC.

We have 12 technicians on staff who have answers. Click on the link below, ask and we may publish your question and the answer in our next newsletter.

[askatech@northerncomputer.ca](mailto:askatech@northerncomputer.ca)

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Coming up in our next issue...



**What is Cloud Computing?**

A site-to-site VPN is used if your business has multiple locations. It uses the VPN enabled router on each end of your business to create the virtual tunnel. This enables you to connect remote offices to the main site for server access.

Northern Computer also uses several different remote access tools to provide remote support to help our clients.

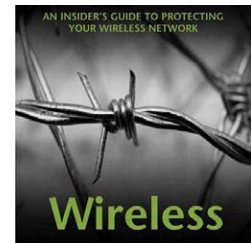
Click [here](#) to finish reading the article.

- Jeremy A Network Support Technician

## Wireless Security

Have you ever used your neighbors wireless internet? Many wireless users rush to get their internet working as quickly as possible. If you have an unsecured wireless network, this leaves your internet open for any wireless enabled devices within range.

Leaving your wireless open to the world can result in numerous security problems and a slower connection as you are now sharing it with someone else. They could be using your internet to watch or download movies or accessing your shared files on your computer. Internet providers will soon be billing their customers when they exceed their download and upload limits. Downloading could be anything from using Netflix, browsing the internet, downloading music or receiving emails. This could result in a higher bill than you have been accustomed to paying each month.



Configuring today's basic wireless networking products can be time-consuming and not as straightforward as you would like. With any business you want to make sure you are using the latest and most secure encryption. If you are setting up a home network you might not be as concerned about this, but should still have security set up.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of the article.

-Benjamin M, Network Support Technician

## Tips & Tricks

### Recycling Your Computer

Computers sure are great when they are working. But what do you do with that computer, monitor, printer, switch, router that no longer works or is just too old? You do what millions of people and companies are doing and store them somewhere in the deepest darkest corner of your house or office. Or you recycle it.



In British Columbia, all new electronics are charged an environmental handling fee. This fee is collected to help offset the costs of recycling your old electronics. Recycle? Does this mean they take my old computer and give it to someone? No, all the electronics contain valuable metals like, copper and gold. Of course these are in small amounts, but still worth value on the market once you have collected it from thousands of electronics. In B.C. electronics are taken to Trail, where they are broken down, melted down and all the salvageable metals, plastics and such are separated and recycled.



What about the hard drive? We recommend that you never take a hard drive to be recycled until the piece is rendered useless and no data can be extracted in anyway. Sometimes formatting the hard drive is not enough. At Northern Computer, we physically take the hard drive apart and scratch the surface of the platters, or even bend and smash them with a hammer. This is the pretty much the only way to make sure you cannot get any data off.

- Ken Hruschak, Senior Account Manager

Click [here](#) to finish reading this article.

