

Cybersecurity Connections

In my chosen career path, cybersecurity plays a very important role. I plan to own a business that manufactures and sells telecommunications equipment, such as routers, firewalls, and switches. Without a good understanding of cybersecurity, not only do we put ourselves at risk, but we also put our customers at risk. Cybersecurity is not something that can be taken lightly, and I believe that 99% of security breaches are caused by stupid mistakes or temporary patches. Cybersecurity is a very thorough field, requiring you to make sure that you cover all bases. It is a race to see who can outsmart the other first.

From personal experience, I can say that keeping your network and devices secure is not an easy feat. Most security issues are caused by temporary patches, stupid mistakes, or out of date firmware. I work at an ISP in our tech support department, and I have once learned the hard way about keeping your equipment secure. I installed a brand new network switch that was connected directly to the public network (direct access to public IPs). Without thinking, I turned the switch on for a quick test (running the factory default firmware and configuration), I forgot to turn the switch off and left it for the weekend. When I came back, it was discovered that the out of date firmware had a security flaw that allowed a random attacker to connect to the switch, and attempt to telnet into devices connected to the switch.

You can keep your network equipment secure in various ways, but the number one most effective way to keep your device secure is to completely isolate it from the outside world. But not only is network security the topic of cybersecurity, so is keeping yourself secure. Preventing your information from being leaked on the internet is easy as long as you understand some basic fundamentals. First, what goes on the internet stays on the internet. Data on the internet can easily be copied or cached, making it extremely difficult to remove anything. However, Google (and many other search engines) offer(s) a service to remove links from their platform given you have a valid reason. To protect myself from leaked information, I search myself on the internet approximately every 3 months,

to make sure there isn't anything unfavorable showing under my name. If there is something I would like to remove, I put in a removal request through the search engine. Now, this does not remove the data forever, as it is still available through other means. But, for most cases this is good enough. The main thing to remember is that if someone wants some information about you, they will find it. All that matters is how bad they want to know.