

# Marari Network News

**Special points of interest:**

- > How well do you know your network?
- > "Patch Tuesday" is August 14, 2007
- > Have you checked your backup?
- > How can Marari Network Solutions help protect your business?

## Who Is Using Your Network?

Recently, I took a drive down Portage Avenue with my notebook. At various intervals, I pulled over to check and see how many wireless networks were in range of my notebook.



Not surprisingly, there were several.

What **was** surprising is how many of these wireless networks were not secured. No password.

No encryption. No key required. Wide open.

### That's bad right?

Yes, yes it is. Recently, one of my new clients asked me to check on their network to see why everything was so slow.

After running a packet-sniffer (a special tool used to check the flow and type of information on a network) for a little while, it was clear as to what the problem was. They had purchased a wireless router and their previous tech-people had installed it (in the ceiling so it wasn't visible) and either didn't realize that they had left the wireless broadcast on, or just simply didn't know that it

could be disabled. In either case, the end result was that the client had several "outside" people connected to their network and were using their internet service for downloading (pirated) music, movies, and other forms of media that would likely be considered inappropriate by most professional standards.

Since there was no requirement for wireless inside of this client's office, I logged into the router and disabled the wireless services so that the router simply did what it should have done (but failed to do) in the first place—protect their network.

## "Patch Tuesday" August 14, 2007

On the second Tuesday of every month, Microsoft releases updates to patch vulnerabilities found in their operating systems and other software products.

This month's "Patch Tuesday" falls on August 14, 2007 and includes 6 critical and 3 important updates that address new vulnerabilities found in

Microsoft Office, Internet Explorer, Windows Media Player, Vista, XP, and the various Server 2003 platforms.

Some of these vulnerabilities allow remote code execution from a specially crafted web page or email. In english, that means that if you go to a "bad" web page or open a "bad" email that some

malicious person has set up, they could do nasty stuff with your computer by either taking it over, or running other programs from it.

If you do not have automatic updates enabled on your PC's please make sure that you go to [Microsoft Update](#) and keep up to date with security patches.

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**Test and verify your backup**



**Do You Trust Your Backup?**

A backup is only as good as the data in it.

You run a backup religiously. You change tapes daily. You burn data to a CD once a week. You take a backup drive off-site.

Whatever your backup “regime” is, it’s good that you have one. But backing up is only half the job.

Another new client thought that their backup was working fine. Then one day (not long ago),

their custom written, DOS based accounting software died somehow and the entire accounting database was corrupted.

No problem, they thought, and faithfully turned to their most recent backup only to find that the data they needed wasn’t there.

What happened? The backup software (which was installed by another IT company) was setup wrong. Every day, instead of appending (adding) the

email backup after the data backup, the job was configured to overwrite (delete) the data backup.

How do you prevent this from happening to you?

Simple. Test and verify your backup. And do it frequently.

After all, it’s **your** data.

Make sure it’s safe.

“It doesn’t really matter which Antivirus software package you use, as long as you keep it current.”

**Antivirus Software and You**

There are quite literally dozens, if not hundreds, of different antivirus software vendors...

[Symantec](#), [Trend Micro](#), [Grisoft \(AVG\)](#), [Eset Software \(NOD32\)](#), [McAfee](#), [Panda](#), [Kaspersky](#), etc.

The best antivirus package that’s out there is the one that is kept up to

date. Period. It doesn’t really matter which antivirus software you use, as long as you keep it current.

In most cases, there are business “server based” antivirus packages available from most of these software vendors that centralizes the updating, scanning, and behavior of

the antivirus package so that keeping the protective software current is automatic and simple to manage.

Have questions about antivirus software? Call me! I’d be happy to help find the right antivirus software for your business.

**Business Internet Abuse**

Business owners, large or small, have one common enemy—time-stealing websites such as facebook, youtube, and many others.

We’ve all done it. We’ve all had a “spare” moment to check out a funny video, or search out a long-lost friend... maybe even take a look at a picture” or two.

But what about the employee that feels a sense of entitlement to the web? Does all his or her online banking at work. Checks their hotmail. Chats on MSN. Watches videos. Basically everything but do what they’re supposed to be doing? Does your business have a policy for “Acceptable Use” of the internet and email?

Marari Network Solutions has a very affordable router/firewall solution for your business that can not only monitor employee web usage, but track statistics and even block “undesirable” sites from being accessed. Ask us about protection options for your business!



**Does your business have a policy for “Acceptable Use” of the internet?**

## An Inner Reality Check

I went for lunch with a business associate of mine the other day. He asked me point blank:

“What is so different about your company from other technology service providers?”

It was a fair question, and fortunately I was prepared for it.

I believe my primary difference is in the way that I treat my clients. The most important life’s lesson that I learned was

when I was working for KORTEK. Clients aren’t dollars or commissions. They’re not numbers. They’re people. And regardless of their need, they want to be made to feel that they are important and appreciated.

With every client I earn, I am given an opportunity to build a long-lasting, trusted relationship. A partnership. A friendship. And I appreciate and respect those opportunities.

I could say that my pas-

sion for technology is in the forefront.

I could say that my 20+ years of experience in hardware, software, and networking is in the forefront.

But a passion for what I do, and the experience to know how to do it well are an easy second to the most important asset of my business.

My clients. My friends.

**“With every client I earn, I am given an opportunity to build a long-lasting, trusted relationship.”**

## What My Clients Say About Me

“For more than 15 years... his tireless enthusiasm and expertise has seen us through an era of ever-present transition and growth. No matter what the problem, no matter what the hour or situation, Ari is always there leaving no stone unturned to make sure things are running smoothly.”

Joe McEvoy,  
Vice President  
Dynamic Machine Corp.

“We were looking for a reliable contact to clean up our server, check the whole network for problem areas, and develop a backup procedure...”

... We are very impressed with Ari’s knowledge of Microsoft products and the proper applications of each.”

Cam Wilson  
Vice President  
Simpson Wilson Ltd.

“Ari approached us with the exact product that we needed to best suit our needs. What surprised us was his enthusiasm and understanding of our type and size of business.

... Ari is a man who brings an honest assessment of what your business needs are and meets them on budget.”

Jason Studensky  
General Manager  
Hilton Insurance Services

**“Ari is a man who brings an honest assessment of what your business needs...”**

## The Last Word

If there’s anything more that needs to be said it’s how much I really do appreciate my clients and how very much I would appreciate the opportunity to begin a trusted relationship with your company.

To those that I have that relationship with now, I thank you deeply and

sincerely.

For those of you that will allow me the opportunity to earn your trust and your business, I thank you as well, and look forward to forging many new relationships with happy clients.

After all, our tag line at Marari Network Solutions

isn’t just lip-service.

**Relax, we’re on I.T.**

With kindest regards,



Ari Novikoff  
President,  
Marari Network Solutions

**Marari**  
Network Solutions

*Relax, we're on I.T.*

587 Mathias Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R2V 1P1

Phone: 204-981-2646  
E-mail: [ari@marari.net](mailto:ari@marari.net)  
Web: [www.marari.net](http://www.marari.net)

**Contact Ari Novikoff from Marari Network Solutions for:**

- Network and PC support on Windows platforms including:
  - Windows Server 2000/2003
  - Small Business Server Edition
  - Exchange Server 2000/2003
  - Windows 2000 Pro/XP/Vista
- Network and PC Security Auditing
- Server and PC hardware/software maintenance
- Hardware and software procurement and consulting
- Network design, implementation, and cabling services
- Backup and recovery planning

Visit us online!  
[www.marari.net](http://www.marari.net)

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## Small Business Security Checklist

From [Microsoft's Website](#), here is the Small Business Security Checklist:

1. [Protect Your Desktops and Laptops](#)
2. [Keep Your Data Safe](#)
3. [Use The Internet Safely](#)
4. [Protect Your Network](#)
5. [Protect Your Servers](#)
6. [Secure Your Line of Business Applications](#)
7. [Manage Desktops and Laptops From the Server](#)

Click on any of these points for more in depth information.

If you need help securing your network, call or [email](#) me! I'll be happy to assist.



**Keep your technology  
secure by following the  
security checklist.**