

THE NetworkGuy

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Learn from The Network Guy

I like to take the fun and quirky quizzes I see on Facebook and other social media. They're harmless, right?

The Network Guy:

That's a good question! While simple questions like "What's your favorite color?", "What is your pet's name?", and "Where did you go to high school?" seem innocent, sharing that information online can leave you vulnerable to hackers, identity theft, and a variety of online threats.

Productivity App: Slack

If you could use a new app to bring people, information, and tools together, Slack may be your solution. From Fortune 100 companies to corner markets, millions of people around the world use Slack to connect their teams, unify their systems, and drive their business forward. Slack allows you to integrate and streamline your work, automate tasks, and bring context into your team's conversations.

For more information, visit www.slack.com.



The Network Guy Quiz Challenge

PenTeleData is giving one lucky winner a \$150 Amazon Gift Card. Just visit www.ptd.net/quiz-challenge by March 31, 2021 to answer the question below. We will select a winner at random from all correct entries. **Good Luck!**

What type of home could benefit the most from using a mesh network for Wi-Fi?



What is a Mesh Network?

A mesh network is a group of devices that act as a single Wi-Fi network to provide multiple sources of Wi-Fi instead of just a single router. The result is a blanket of wireless coverage that offers fast and efficient data routing – exactly what most of us need to reach all corners and levels of our homes.

That “blanket” of sorts typically includes several networking components: a main router that is connected directly to the modem and a series of satellite modules, or nodes, that are strategically placed throughout the home. They are all part of a single wireless network and share the same SSID and password. Since they use mesh technology instead of radio bands to communicate with each other, the mesh network allows extended Wi-Fi coverage. Besides benefiting large homes with dead zones, and obstacles like metal-framed walls or doors, a mesh network also offers the ability to manage the network from everywhere. This includes setting parental controls, checking device and data usage, creating guest networks, and even pausing the network.

Many of our partners offer mesh network systems, such as **Eero** or **Plume Adaptive Wi-Fi**. For more information on their services, please contact the PenTeleData cable partner that serves your area.



“I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”

- Superman

Security Concerns and Practicing Good Safety

How well does your smart home device know you?

Whether it's Amazon Alexa, Echo, the Google Home Hub or any of their smart-device friends, these devices are very popular right now. Owning one comes with inherent privacy and security risks, since they are always listening to identify the codeword that will activate them. While many of us are willing to trade our privacy for the convenience, it's good to know that smart home devices can record data about their users and transmit it for analysis. Companies can use this information for marketing and other purposes.

Another concern to be aware of is over-sharing on social media. Since divulging your life story, including vacation plans and personal details that many people openly share every day, can make you an easy target for identity theft. Casual details, even the ones that seem harmless, are often the answers to security questions, including the ones we use to reset forgotten passwords! And, of course, those dreamy vacation photos, well, they're the first clue that you aren't home. You can protect yourself by not befriending anyone you don't know and trust, making your profile viewable only to specific friends, and keeping personal details off of social media.

PenTeleData Speed Test

Do you know that you can check the speed of your broadband Internet connection with PenTeleData?

The PenTeleData speed test is a diagnostic tool that is designed to help our Technical Support staff evaluate the performance of your Internet connection within the PenTeleData network, but is also available for you to check on the Internet speeds you receive.

It's easy! Just visit www.ptd.net and choose “Speed Test” on the menu found on the right side of our page. If you prefer, you can visit directly at www.speedtest.net.

