



KINGDOM
TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS
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Kingdom e-News

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How to Use Wireless in a Hotel Safely

When you are traveling, using your laptop to hop online from your hotel room is a great convenience. Logging onto the Internet through the hotel's wireless service can be a business advantage and is invaluable for staying in touch with the folks you have left at home. Of course, it's even better if the hotel offers free Internet access.



Unfortunately, free hotel wireless access is anything but secure. Everything you do over the hotel network will be broadcast unencrypted and available for easy interception. A recent Cornell University study of Internet service at 147 hotels determined that if you're using hotel wireless Internet access, you may be putting yourself at risk of spyware and malware infections, data snooping, and password theft.

That doesn't mean you should shy away from using your laptop in a hotel. Following a few precautions can minimize your exposure. When you check into the hotel, inquire at the front desk to determine if they have free Internet access available. You can obtain the login information at that time. As a prudent traveler, however, you should already be forearmed with the knowledge of how to stay safe once checked in, settled down, and connected.

First of all, you must use anti-virus software and a firewall. A firewall is an electronic security barrier that prevents "outsiders", unauthorized or unwanted traffic, from getting into a computer or a network. It, in essence, guards the entrance. You may purchase firewall software or find it free online at sources such as [://www.tucows.com/](http://www.tucows.com/). Another option is to enable the Windows Firewall by opening the Control Panel and clicking Windows Firewall. This software will help protect you from malicious attacks over the hotel network and from unauthorized users seeing data on your computer.

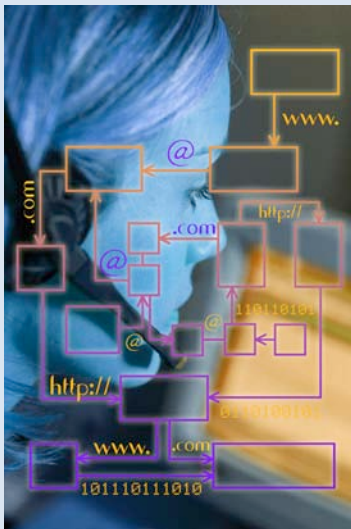
Use caution and your common sense to determine what activities are safe and what are to be avoided. For instance, browse the web to your heart's content. Read the newspapers. If a hacker is watching, those activities will not prove to be of any value. Facebook and email are relatively safe as well.

Don't sign in to any accounts with sensitive personal data like bank and credit card information. Logging into your bank account, for instance, would not be a wise course of action. Don't make purchases from public WiFi with your credit card. Encrypted links are no guarantee that your data is protected on a public connection. If you need to get in contact with your bank or check balance information, use their phone support instead.

Use secure services. If you use Gmail, for example, be sure to use the secure version of the site by typing "https://gmail.google.com" rather than "http://gmail.google.com." This will route your email through SSH (secure shell), giving your data a layer of security.

If you need to check your email on the road, change your password when you get back to your home or office. This won't protect anyone from reading your email at the hotel, so be sure not to use your email for transmitting secure information, which is a good rule of thumb no matter what the circumstance.

Finally, make it a policy not to install any programs or applications while using a hotel's Internet connection.



Ask Tech Support

Question: Is there a way to alphabetize favorites in Internet Explorer?

Answer: Yes, click on "Favorites" in the menu bar. When the list appears, right click on any of the shortcuts and then click "Sort by Name" in the dropdown menu. Couldn't be easier!

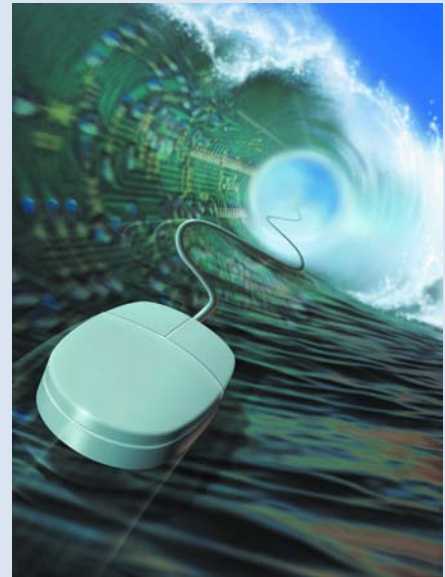
If you are a Firefox browser fan, open the View menu, select Sidebar, and click Bookmarks. The Bookmarks sidebar will open. Next right-click on the folder you wish to sort; then select Sort by Name.

Sites to See

[://www.tolkienprofessor.com/](http://www.tolkienprofessor.com/)

The Tolkien Professor

Journey to Middle Earth with Corey Olsen, a tenured English professor at Washington College in Maryland and a PhD in medieval literature. Wanting to connect with other people willing to engage in a “thoughtful literary conversation” about the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, Olsen established a website where he could share his scholarly work with the public. The site includes a variety of materials, mostly digital audio files of Olsen’s extended, in-depth lecture series on Tolkien’s major works. All recorded material is free. A discussion board and bookstore are also available.



[://www.alcatrazhistory.com/](http://www.alcatrazhistory.com/)

Alcatraz History

Alcatraz was America’s premier maximum-security prison, the final stop for the nation’s most incorrigible inmates. This web site introduces you to the rich history of Alcatraz and many of the inmates who called “the Rock” home. The site explores this history through brief narratives and photos, and serves as an excellent reference for researchers seeking a basic collection of information. Find out about the prison’s rules and regulations, view cellblock diagrams, and follow the inmates’ daily routines. Don’t miss the audio link to the Battle of Alcatraz 1946 radio serial.

[://www.google.com/weddings/](http://www.google.com/weddings/)

Google for Weddings

Google seems to do just about everything else, so why not let them help you simplify your wedding preparations? Explore how Google’s free tools can help you save time, stay organized and have fun while planning your big day. It works like this:

--Use Google Sites to create a web site that will share your story and event details.

Customizable styles fit a variety of themes and venues.

--Use Picknik’s photo editing tool to create photos, announcements, “save the date” cards, and more.

--Use Google Docs for planning the details like guest lists, schedules, and addresses.

Since the program is based online, the documents can be accessed from any computer, wherever you happen to be.

--Create an online photo album to share engagement and wedding pictures.

[://www.redferret.net/](http://www.redferret.net/)

Red Ferret

This web site bills itself as the world’s first eclectic tech blog, “covering gadgets, software, cool sites, and tech trivia in a fun and offbeat way.” Founded by Nigel Powell, a columnist and feature writer for the London Sunday Times newspaper, the site aims to bring readers important, unusual, or downright bizarre technologies and products from

around the world. To give you an idea of the diversity of material here, consider a few of the blogs posts for Valentine's Day, 2011. We have "The Carnivorous Clock: Tells Time, Kills Flies", "SXSW Free Music – Cool 4.5 GB Torrent of Free Legal Music Now Available for Public Download", and "Multi Lines Extension Cords Spread Out Your Outlets."

<http://www.baseballinwartime.com/index.htm>

Baseball in Wartime

This fascinating web site is devoted to baseball during World War II. There are more than 500 biographies of former major league, minor league, Negro league, semi-pro, amateur and college baseball players who served during WWII. An In Memoriam section covers players who lost their lives during the war, and all major leagues players who served with the Armed Forces are listed on the site. The site also includes details of significant games played by Armed Forces teams, team rosters, a photo gallery, a timeline, and reviews of books relating to baseball during the war years. You can sign up to receive the Baseball in Wartime newsletter either by email in .pdf format or by regular mail. An archive of past editions is available on the site.

Install a Network in Your Home or Office

Wireless/Wired Installation and Setup - \$119

Share an Internet connection, files and printer between PCs. You will get onsite installation of wireless networking hardware and configuration of up to four existing devices. The necessary hardware and software are purchased separately. Your PCs must have Windows XP, Mac OS10, or newer operating system installed. The price does not include labor to route network wiring, if required, and installation of additional hardware devices is \$30 per device.



Wireless Security Setup - \$39

This setup enables wireless encryption on up to four existing, currently networked devices. Includes estimate for additional security services, if necessary.

Mini-Tutorial:

Personalize Windows 7 with a Desktop Background Slideshow

1. Choose the photographs you would like to include in your slideshow. All of the photos must be located in the same folder.
2. Click on the Start button
3. Click on Control Panel
4. In the Search box, type desktop background.
5. Click Change desktop background.
6. If the pictures that you want to use aren't in the list of desktop background pictures, click the Picture location list to view other categories, or click Browse to search your computer for the folder where the pictures are located.
 - o Select the check box for each picture that you want to include in your slide show. By default, all of the pictures in a folder are selected and will be part of the slide show.
 - o To remove photos from the slideshow that you don't want to include, either clear the check box for each picture you want to remove, OR press the Ctrl key and click each picture you want to remove.
 - o If all of the pictures in the folder are selected, any new pictures added to the folder will be added to the slideshow automatically
7. Do one or more of the following:
 - o Click an item in the Picture position list to crop the pictures to fill the screen, fit the pictures to the screen, stretch the pictures to fit the screen, tile the pictures, or center the pictures on the screen.
 - o Click an item in the Change picture every list to choose how quickly the slide show changes pictures.
 - o Select the Shuffle check box to have the pictures appear in a random order.
8. Click Save changes.

