



## COMPUTER SECURITY -- PART IV of X - Networks (colloquial in nature)

Networks are a major source of enterprise, medium and small business security and concern. Networks can be made easy or complex. The key element of network security is protected and up to date network documentation. At all times there should be a network plan and information security plan. In addition, network devices attached to the network need to be audited regularly with policies and permissions on whether or not activity and traffic can be allowed to flow through the network from sources to destinations. There is a balance of service vs. security.

- Internet routers are not all the same. For home users a basic combination wireless and wired cable or DSL router/modem is sufficient. For others, a robust network device or appliance is required.
- Purchasing decisions of networking appliances vary from IT professional to business person. Network appliances and devices that are easily configurable and also strong enough to provide information and network business functions are usually desired. The need to hire a full time network professional depends on the size of the business and the purpose of the business activity. There is a balance between cost, performance and maintainability.
- Types of Network Appliances and their purpose: Hardcode network professionals choose industry standard and rugged gear. Depending on the purpose of the network device and its orientation and placement in the network, one device does not meet all requirements. • For example, if a network device is for internal purposes versus the edge of a business network, then one appliance is required versus another. For example, a VPN router would allow extranet users into a business space. An IDS/IPS firewall router would deliver a different purpose of detecting and preventing unauthorized and anomolous Internet and intranet traffic and activity. A network balancing or content caching appliance would another benefit and feature to the public and private network users.
- A great example of a living network plan is at UNR and SCS. A public institution. Funded in party by Nevada taxpayers. <http://www.scs.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/default/assets/File/Committees/NSHEConnectivity/docs/UNR-Network-Overview.ppt>
- [http://www.mountaincomputers.org/newsletters/NSHE\\_20100202minutes.pdf](http://www.mountaincomputers.org/newsletters/NSHE_20100202minutes.pdf)
- Overall information security because of a network is paramount. Redundant backups are critical in the event of intrusion and restoration of checksum and protected original files. • Be Safe - It is a digital jungle out there!

## BUILD TO ORDER PC - PART IX

This week we had a previous BTO owner upgrade question. Should I buy a ZT system from Costco for ~\$600 or upgrade the MTN BTO System from 3+ years ago. Background: I have a Intel Dual Core E7500 processor, 160GB 7200 WD Hard Drive, 2GB DDR2 PC2 5300 667 RAM, runing Windows XP Home. Can I upgrade to Windows 7? First question as a BTO expert, what type of motherboard do you have? Answer: MSI P6NGM-FD. Windows 7 will function nicely on this computer if you are using it for home and small business usage. Upgrade costs would be \$130 for the operating system (Windows 7 Home Premium 64 bit), and we suggest increasing the RAM memory from 2GB to 4GB (2ea 2GB DDR2 800 PC2 6400) ~\$70 4GB is the maximum RAM for the motherboard Installation and migration costs would be ~\$120. Total upgrade cost is ~\$320 + tax, and you will get another 3-4 years out of your computer. Good question. A fair estimate and answer and data and application migration included. The hard drive 5 year warranty is still good, disk free space after upgrade > 140GB.

The ZT system from Costco has overall good specifications with underperforming and unwarranted quality parts. We have worked on a few of these ZT systems and on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being best), we give it a 5. A BTO system overall rates at ~7.5+.

## TECH TIPS OF THE WEEK

1. Use only one antivirus on your computer
2. A bunch of icons on your desktop does take up much disk space and don't slow down your computer.
3. Turn your computer off once per week.



**Mountain Computers Inc.**  
490 E 8th St.  
Reno, Nevada 89512

Office (775) 287-9552

Technical Support (775) 324-3524

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm

Lunch 11x-12x

Saturday 10am to 2pm

GO GREEN  
PC-TUNE UP!

