

## **Free Internet Service!!!**

If you have the right equipment, you too can surf the internet for free. In most towns where high speed internet is available I can drive down most streets and surf the internet for free with my laptop. No, this is not a new service no one told you about. It is simply the side effect of careless installation of wireless routers.

A lot of people are now using wireless routers to broadcast their internet signal throughout their business or home so they can use their laptop or PC in any room without having to run a data cable. These devices work great (I use one myself at home so I can sit in the living room and surf the web during commercials), however if they are not setup correctly they can be a huge vulnerability. You see, that signal doesn't stop at the outside walls of your office or home. Nope, it can easily travel several hundred feet where your neighbors or someone driving down the street with a laptop can easily pick it up and start using your internet for free.

So what is the big risk in that? None, after all they probably aren't using enough of your total bandwidth to slow your surfing down. However, if you share files between your computers and don't have a strong password setup to log in from one computer to the others, then anyone could potentially log in to your computer and either copy or delete those shared files. It's no different than someone walking into your home or office and plugging their laptop directly into your network. What's worse, all routers by default broadcast their name to let anyone nearby know that they are available for use. If you don't turn of the SSID broadcast feature and enable encryption on your wireless router then you are welcoming anyone within broadcast range to share your internet and your files. Kind of scary isn't it? Need more info on this? Read your user's manual or give me a call sometime.