Commissioner of Charities

SUPPORT FOR CHARITIES

Steps to secure your home's wireless (Wi-Fi) network

When working from home, one should be mindful of the potential security issue whereby unauthorised personnel taps on your wireless (Wi-Fi) network. The implications of this unauthorised access could mean:

Attackers hacking and gaining control of your devices, with accounts being compromised

A decrease in Internet speed as your bandwidth is being shared with others
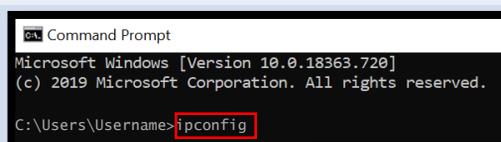
To secure your home's wireless (WI-FI) network, follow the steps below:

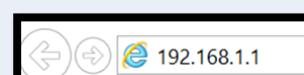### Step 1: Access your modem/router's settings

- Search "**CMD**" at the Start Menu and open the "**Command Prompt**" application

- Type "**ipconfig**" and press enter

- Open your Internet browser and enter the **IP address** found in the Command Prompt window as "Default Gateway" (e.g. 192.168.1.1)

- Enter the **correct username and password for the modem/router**. This can be found on the user manual for the router. Alternatively, you may search the Internet for the default username and password for your modem/router if no one at home has changed it before

Step 2: Secure your modem/router

- Change the default username and password given for the admin access to the modem/router
- Use a **strong and complex password** for the router's admin page

Step 3: Secure your wireless network

- Change the default **Service Set Identifier (SSID) name**.
  This is the name of your wireless network that will be displayed on your device's list of Wi-Fi network. SSID will be shown on a person's device if it is within the network range
  ❗ Avoid using personal name, home address, or other private details as the name of the SSID

- Use a **strong and complex Wi-Fi password**
  ❗ Do not use the same password which was used for the router's admin page

A strong password is made up of a long combination of different types of characters. Example:
- ✓ 12 characters
- ✓ Upper and Lower case
- ✓ Numeric characters
- ✓ Special characters such as @!$#&%?

Step 4: Setup encryption for your network

- Open the wireless security settings page
- Select **Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2)** encryption

Step 5: Keep your modem/router updated

- **Enable automatic updates**
- Ensure that firmware of the modem/router is up to date. Check the manufacturer's site or refer to the router's documentation to download the latest firmware

For further technical assistance on securing home wireless (WI-FI) network, charities are advised to contact their internet service providers.