

## **Wireless Security**

Wireless security is very important if you want to keep people off of your internet. Currently there are two popular standards for wireless security; WEP and WPA.

WEP or Wired Equivalent Privacy was the original wireless security designed to keep wireless networks secure. It is the most widely compatible security but it is also the least secure. If you want basic security that will work over a wide range of users then WEP is for you.

WPA or Wi-Fi Protected Access addressed a lot of known problems with WEP and is significantly more secure. If you have old software for your wireless card or if you have a first generation Wireless Router then you may need to update to be able to use WPA. Ultimately, if security is the highest priority then WPA is for you.

## **Voice Recognition Software**

I've been getting a lot of questions about voice recognition software and I'd like to point out one that works very well. Dragon Naturally Speaking 9 is a product made by Nuance. When installed on the computer it converts spoken word into text on the screen.

The software requires a little training so it can calibrate itself to your speaking style, but after a bit of training it works near flawless. In addition to being able to speak into the computer and have it converted into text you can also speak commands into the computer. For example, you can tell the computer to open Internet Explorer and perform other basic functions.

## **Podcasts Not Just for iPods**

Podcasts are essentially news/radio broadcasts that can be downloaded to your computer or mp3 player. A common misconception regarding podcasts is that they only work on iPods. This is not true. You can download podcasts to your computer or any other mp3 player to listen to the broadcast.

If you do have an iPod, you can subscribe to the podcast and have it automatically download to your iPod, but this is not necessary to enjoy the content of the broadcast.

A couple of websites that have collections of the popular podcast providers are: [www.odeo.com](http://www.odeo.com) & [www.podcast.net](http://www.podcast.net)

## **Windows XP Service Pack 3 Released for Testers, not part of automatic updates yet**

### **Antivirus Companies Growing and Merging**

AVG recently purchased Exploit Prevention Labs to detect exploits on webpages. "Anti-spyware specialist Webroot merged with email and web filtering firm Email Systems, while Symantec and Trend Micro have bought into data leak prevention and McAfee has invested in encryption and website trust rating firms, all in the last few months."