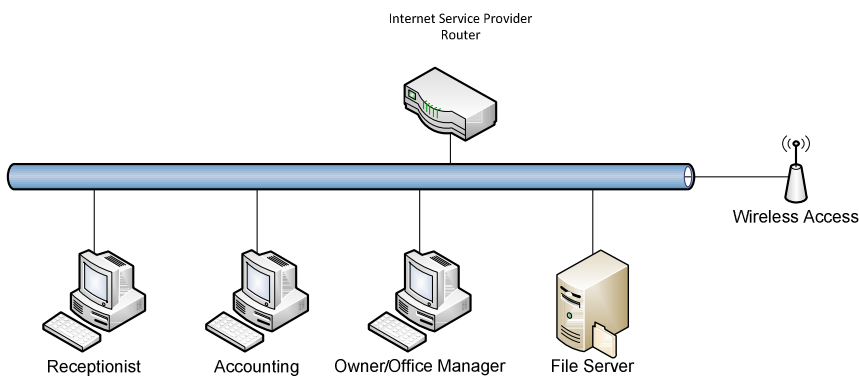


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Small Business Network Design and Security

When we talk about network security, what we mean is network separation. We want to keep very secure computers separate from public or regular office users - for example, the accounting department or executive floor. We also want to make shared resources available to use, like a network laser printer. Why have five printers in the office costing you more money, invest in a single printer and let everyone share it? The same theory holds true for network file storage. Centralized network file storage allows users to easily share files to other users over the network. This solution also allows for simple backups and recovery in case of problems. Please review examples of good and bad network design, and decide what is best for your organization.



On the left, we see an example of a traditional office or home network. This design is very easy to install, but lacks any security or separation between different departments and wireless users.

On the right you can see how we use a firewall to separate different departments and functions from each other. We don't want our wireless or lobby customers to have access to our file server, but we want to provide them Internet access. We also don't want anyone to access the accounting computer, so we separate it and put it on a very secure network. The regular office network users should be able to access the server and the Internet. This is exactly how large corporations design their networks, why not take advantage of this for your own?

