

■ Home Network Security Checklist

A printable audit. Walk through it once, then once a year. By Pragmatic Sysadmin.

1. Router basics

- Default admin password changed (not admin/admin)
- Router firmware updated within the last 6 months
- Remote management turned OFF (admin over WAN)
- WPA3 or WPA2-AES encryption enabled (not WEP, not WPA)
- WiFi network name (SSID) doesn't include your address or family name

2. Network segmentation

- Guest network enabled (for visitors and IoT devices)
- Smart home devices on guest network, NOT main network
- Kids' devices on guest network or with scheduled access
- Main network only for: laptops, phones, desktops

3. DNS & filtering

- DNS set to Cloudflare (1.1.1.1) or Quad9 (9.9.9.9)
- Pi-hole or AdGuard Home installed for ad/tracker blocking
- Adult content filter enabled if kids use the network
- DNS over HTTPS (DoH) enabled in router settings

4. Devices & accounts

- All laptops/desktops have full-disk encryption enabled
- Phones have screen lock + biometrics enabled
- Router login uses a unique 20+ character password
- WiFi password is unique and not on a sticky note on the router
- Admin password is stored in a password manager

5. Backups & updates

- Critical files backed up to off-site location (not just external drive)
- Backup tested by restoring a file in the last 6 months
- Auto-update enabled on: router, OS, browser, phone
- Phone OS up to date (iOS 17+ / Android 12+)

6. When to call for help

- Faster speeds than your plan allows (scam)
- Random devices appearing on your network
- Router admin password lost or compromised
- Suspicious emails/texts asking for verification codes
- Performance dramatically worse than usual

Notes:
