

## The Risk of an Unsecured Wireless Network

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A recent lawsuit filed by a movie producer against thousands of individuals should teach us a lesson: Secure your wireless network. Many of the defendants in that suit were the victims of hackers who “piggybacked” onto the defendant’s unsecured wireless network and illegally downloaded the award-winning movie, [The Hurt Locker](#).

The defendants are the victims of these illegal downloads. The plaintiff alleges that the defendants are contributorily infringing on the movie producer’s copyright – as far-fetched as that may sound.

The producer is threatening the victims with continued litigation if they don’t pay several thousand dollars to settle out of court. The cost of defending these lawsuits would be even more expensive. So, the victims face the choice of paying for a wrong they did not commit and had no knowledge of, or fighting an expensive legal battle with no certainty of winning.

The lesson is simple: Secure your wireless network. The cost of not learning that lesson may be steep.

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