
Hidden wifi ssid

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Setting up a wireless sound easy but there are some popular miss conception you need to know about.

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Hidding the name of you wifi network (SSID or service set identifier) sound like a good idea, it might make it more difficult to find and connect to your acces point (AP or wifi-router). But in order to connect to your hidden wifi network, the client (your PC), need to "shout out" its name. And it will do that each time it "sees" a hidden network. Because you PC doesn't know if it close to the real one or not. So a bad actor can listen to these "shout outs", setup an access point with the same name. And your PC will connect to it. And this is a security risks for your PC.

And hiding the wifi-network name, doesn't make it completely invisible. Your access point still send outs some beacon frames, periodically.

But perhaps you don't want to whole world knowing your wifi-network and especially it's location. Well too bad it is probably already out there. See wgle.net

And Apple and Google have their own wifi-maps, that they use to pin-point a location when GPS is not active on a device.

Google does this when google maps cars are driving around.

Now they say that you can opt-out of this, by adding _nomap

to the wifi-name (SSID).

Google, Apple and Wigle say they will respect this.

of course this doesn't prevent others from mapping your wifi-network, but very few companies have so many devices around the world as Google and Apple.

<https://support.apple.com/en-asia/102515>