

# Unit 4 Lab

---

## NetSpot

- 1. What is NetSpot and what is it used for? Why might a typical person with a home Wi-Fi network run NetSpot?**

NetSpot is a software tool for wireless network assessment, scanning, and surveys, analyzing Wi-Fi coverage and performance. A typical person would use this because it allows you to detect all of the Wi-Fi hotspots in your area and determine where the best place to position your access points is. It also helps you determine which channel to select.

- 2. What are two specific NetSpot features that are related to cybersecurity? Name one feature that is related to improving cybersecurity and another that could be used by hackers for nefarious purposes. Explain your answers.**

- 1. Wi-Fi Surveys** (provides visual data to help analyze radio signal leaks, discover noise sources, map channel use, optimize access point locations).
- 2. Wi-Fi Network Planning** (the data that is collected help to select channels and placements for new hotspots).

## InSSIDer

- 1. What is InSSIDer and what does it do? Why might a person decide to install and run InSSIDer?**

InSSIDer is a Wi-Fi network scanner application. It visualizes what channel each WiFi channel is on, to see how they share channels, and how they partially overlap. A person would use this because if you know what is happening in your wireless environment, you can use that data to fix problems, or just improve the performance of your network.

## Avast Antivirus

- 1. Evaluate and compare free and commercial versions of the Avast antivirus software provided at the link above. Based on the information you learned in this unit, what differences, if any, are significant enough to warrant paying for the software versus using the free version (for a typical home user, if the specific annual costs were not a major consideration)? What is “missing” from the free subscription that you might want?**

The main difference between paying for it and not paying for it is that the free version gives you only basic features, while the more you pay for it the more advanced features you get. In my observations, I feel that the free plan is good enough for the typical user. However, some people may need more features (meaning they would need to pay). It really depends on the user as to which plan to get. There aren't too many features that warrant paying versus not

paying, but that may be viewed different in another person's eyes based off of their security needs.

**2. Consider the general existence of these types of software programs (NetSpot, InSSIDer, Avast, etc.) as you found them online. What are the risks and benefits of these kinds of software programs for the average Wi-Fi user? List at least one risk and one benefit. You may include factors like frequency of updates, ease of downloading, or commercialism, etc., in your answers. How might you mitigate the risk you mentioned?**

These types of software programs are good because they help increase the security of your computer and your connections to the internet. These programs, however, slow your computer down big time. These programs can also have security risks. If for some reason these programs were to get hacked, as said before that everything is not 100% secure, you may be at risk big time. Since the programs are analyzing all this data, hackers could possibly be able to see some of this data and could target you using the data they find.