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## **Millions of home Wi-Fi networks at risk of hacking**

Millions of home Wi-Fi networks are currently at risk of being hacked, a British security company claimed on Wednesday. But not everyone is convinced it's an issue.

5 According to Elliott Thompson, a SureCloud researcher, weaknesses exist in how saved passwords in the browsers Google Chrome and Opera interact with Wi-Fi over unencrypted connections.

Thompson claimed that hackers could exploit the weaknesses to hijack a home's Wi-Fi, steal information from computers connected to the network and even implant malware.

10 But there appear to be some obstacles to such an intrusion as the cybercriminal would need to be within Wi-Fi range of the router and the victim's device would need to be using the Chrome or Opera browsers that have the router's login credentials to an open network saved. Besides such an intrusion also requires user interaction.

15 Actually, Thompson criticized the fact that Chrome browsers save Wi-Fi router administration credentials and re-enter them automatically – an auto-fill process that is designed for convenience. Obtaining router details could thus be used to capture the Wi-Fi network password. And the problem is that hundreds of millions of routers fitting this criteria are in use.

20 However external independent cybersecurity expert Robert Pritchard remains unconvinced the alleged issue reported by SureCloud is a problem at all. And Google shares his opinion even if the company states they are ready to make improvements if need be.

25 In the meantime users can protect home networks by clearing their Chrome browser's saved passwords, deleting saved open networks and not allowing automatic reconnection to networks.

By Jason Murdoch, adapted from *www.newsweek.com*, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018