



INTERNET OF THINGS TIP CARD

The Internet of Things refers to any object or device that sends and/or receives data automatically via the Internet. This rapidly-expanding set of “things” includes tags (also known as labels or chips that automatically track objects), sensors, and devices that interact with people and share information machine to machine.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

- Cars, appliances, wearables, lighting, healthcare, and home security all contain sensing devices that can talk to another machine and trigger other actions. Examples include: devices that direct your car to an open spot in a parking lot; mechanisms that control energy use in your home; and other tools that track your eating, sleeping, and exercise habits.
- This technology provides a level of convenience to our lives, but it requires that we share more information than ever. The security of this information, and the security of these devices, is not always guaranteed.
- Though many security and resilience risks are not new, the scale of interconnectedness created by the Internet of Things increases the consequences of known risks and creates new ones.

SIMPLE TIPS

Without a doubt, the Internet of Things makes our lives easier and has many benefits; but we can only reap these benefits if our Internet-enabled devices are secure and trusted. Here are some tips to increase the security of your Internet-enabled devices:

1. **Keep a clean machine.** Like your smartphone or PC, keep any device that connects to the Internet free from viruses and malware. Update the software regularly on the device itself as well as the apps you use to control the device.
2. **Think twice about your device.** Have a solid understanding of how a device works, the nature of its connection to the Internet, and the type of information it stores and transmits.
3. **Secure your network.** Properly secure the wireless network you use to connect Internet-enabled devices.

Stop.Think.Connect.™ is a national public awareness campaign aimed at increasing the understanding of cyber threats and empowering the American public to be safer and more secure online. The Campaign’s main objective is to help you become more aware of growing cyber threats and arm you with the tools to protect yourself, your family, and your community. For more information visit www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect.



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MOBILE SECURITY TIP CARD

Mobile devices enable Americans to get online wherever they are. Although mobile devices — from smart watches to phones and tablets — can be extremely useful and convenient, there are also potential threats users may face with such technology. It's important to understand how to protect yourself when connecting on the go.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **56 percent of American adults** own a smartphone.¹
- **More than half of mobile application (app) users** have uninstalled or decided not to install an app due to concerns about their personal information.²

SIMPLE TIPS

1. **Use strong passwords.** Change any default passwords on your mobile device to ones that would be difficult for someone to guess. Use different passwords for different programs and devices. Do not choose options that allow your device to remember your passwords.
2. **Keep software up to date.** Install updates for apps and your device's operating system as soon as they are available. Keeping the software on your mobile device up to date will prevent attackers from being able to take advantage of known vulnerabilities.
3. **Disable remote connectivity.** Some mobile devices are equipped with wireless technologies, such as Bluetooth, that can connect to other devices. Disable these features when they are not in use.
4. **Be careful what you post and when.** Wait to post pictures from trips and events so that people do not know where to find you. Posting where you are also reminds others that your house is empty.
5. **Guard your mobile device.** In order to prevent theft and unauthorized access, never leave your mobile device unattended in a public place and lock your device when it is not in use.
6. **Know your apps.** Be sure to review and understand the details of an app before downloading and installing it. Be aware that apps may request access to your location and personal information. Delete any apps that you do not use regularly to increase your security.
7. **Know the available resources.** Use the Federal Communications Commission's Smartphone Security Checker at www.fcc.gov/smartphone-security.

¹ Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, May 2013

² Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, May 2013

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU

US-CERT.gov

US-CERT provides tips for both individuals and organizations on how to protect against cyber threats. Visit www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips for more information.

OnGuardOnline.gov

This website, run by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), is a one-stop shop for online safety resources available to individuals of all ages.

StaySafeOnline.org

The National Cyber Security Alliance offers instruction on security updates, free anti-virus software, malware software removal and other services.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF ONLINE CRIME

- Immediately notify your local authorities and file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.
- If you think a site has collected your personal information in a way that violates the law, report it to the FTC at www.ftc.gov/complaint.
- If someone has had inappropriate contact over the Internet with you or a colleague, report it to www.cybertipline.com and they will coordinate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and local authorities.

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