west protect

SAFE Tip Sheet

Summer On-the-Go Security

June 2019

Public computers and wireless networks in libraries and other locations are convenient and can be great resources for many Internet users on the go, while embracing good online safety when using these devices.

Your mobile devices – smartphones, laptops and tablets – are always within reach everywhere you go, whether for work, travel or entertainment. They make it easy to connect to the world around you, but they can also pack a lot of sensitive information you need to protect.

So as you move around your world this summer, using all these conveniences at your disposal, it's important to remember to take appropriate online security precautions and good mobile safety habits to keep your private information private.

PERSONAL INFORMATION IS LIKE MONEY. VALUE IT. PROTECT IT.

If you must use public computers, you should:

- **Remember me not:** Make sure the "remember me" function is not enabled when you are using a public computer.
- **Delete your browsing history:** Simply use the browser tools available to delete your cookies and history when you are finished using a public computer.
- **Log out:** Anyone can access public computers, but you don't want anyone else to have access to your personal information and accounts. Close all browser tabs and log out of your accounts when you are done.

For your mobile devices:

- **Secure your devices:** Use strong passwords or touch ID features to lock your devices. These security measures can help protect your information if your devices are lost or stolen and keep prying eyes out.
- **Think before you app:** Information about you, such as the games you like to play, your contacts list, where you shop and your location, has value. Be thoughtful about your privacy and how this information is collected through the apps you use.
- **Now you see me, now you don't:** Some stores and other locations look for devices with WiFi or Bluetooth turned on to track your movements. Disable WiFi and Bluetooth when not in use.

CONNECT WITH CARE

- **Use secure websites:** When entering personal information online, check to be sure the site is security enabled. Look for web addresses with "https://" or "shttp://," which means they take extra measures to help secure your information. Http:// is not secure!!
- **Get savvy about public Wi-Fi: Public computers are not secure**, and **Public wireless networks and hotspots are not secure**, meaning that anyone could potentially see what you do while you're connected. Limit the type of business you conduct and what you do on public WiFi and avoid logging in to key accounts on these networks. **If you need a more secure connection on the go,** consider using a virtual private network (VPN) or a personal/mobile hotspot.

KEEP A CLEAN MACHINE

Keep your mobile devices and apps up to date. Having the most up-to-date security software, web browser, operating system and apps is the best defense against viruses, malware and other online threats. And deleting apps that are no longer needed is a good security practice.

SAFE: Security Awareness For Everyone

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