

MOBILE PHONE SECURITY

DIGITAL SECURITY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHY IS MOBILE PHONE SECURITY IMPORTANT?

For most of us, cell phones are our portals to the world: a single place where we keep our contacts and calendars, our photos, our private emails, text and voice messages, and where our browsing history gives detailed information about our interests and interactions. Your cell phone automatically reveals your physical location at any given time. You need to be conscious of the information you keep on your phone, and settings that allow your data to be accessed and shared.

- Always use a lock code or PIN to lock your phone. Change them from the factory default.
- Do not install unknown and unverified programs on your phone. Only install apps from the official Apple App Store or Google Play.

information is deleted.

- Back up your phone information regularly to a computer. This will allow you to restore the data if you lose your phone or it is damaged or compromised.
- Many phones will automatically connect to open WiFi networks around them. Make sure to keep your phone's WiFi switched off until you want to connect to a specific trusted network. Same rule for Bluetooth and Infrared.
- Be very wary when connecting to WiFi access points that don't require passwords, or to

iMessages on an iPhone, which encrypt messages and provide better protection.

REVIEWING APP PERMISSIONS

- In the Settings feature of most phones, make sure you monitor and update:
 - Which apps have access to your location information
 - Which apps have access to your contacts, calendars, photos, microphone & camera
- Your phone may also allow you to "Limit Ad Tracking" (for the iPhone, this appears in Setting > Privacy > Advertising).

HEIGHTENED SECURITY STEPS

- If you are worried that someone may tamper with your phone without your knowledge, you may want to physically mark (draw on) the SIM card, additional memory card, battery and phone with something unique and not immediately noticeable to a stranger so you can detect physical changes to your phone.
- Consider using only trusted phone dealers and repair shops if you are worried that your phone may be tampered with before you purchase it or while being repaired. You may want to use an authorized but randomly chosen phone dealer or service provider.
- Your phone may allow you to disable “Location Services” altogether if there are times you do not want your location to be tracked and made available to third-party apps. Note that your location information will still be available to the mobile phone network provider as your phone pings nearby cell phone towers.

Adapted from [Security in a Box's Mobile Phone Guide](#) and [Smartphone Guide](#) by [Tactical Technology Collective](#) and [Front Line Defenders](#)