

SECURELY USING THE INTERNET ON-THE-GO

DIGITAL SECURITY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

When you need to access email, apps or websites while you are away from a home internet connection, you can protect your information by taking some steps to update your devices and use good security practices.

Things to do to protect your devices

1. Use a passcode or unlock pattern on your mobile device, and require a password to log onto your laptop
2. Don't leave your phone or computer unattended at coffeeshops, and don't leave it unlocked around other people
3. Make sure all the software on your devices is up to date.
 - a. On an iPhone: Go to Settings > General > Software Update and then App Store > Updates
 - b. On an Android: Go to Settings > About > System Update and then Play Store > Updates
 - c. On a Mac: Go to the App Store application > Updates in the top menu
 - d. On a Windows 10 computer: Go to Start > Settings > Update & security > Windows Update, and select Check for updates

Secure connections

If a wifi connection allows anyone to connect to it without a password, it is very insecure and any data that your device sends over it can be seen by anyone who cares to look, unless you use encryption to protect your privacy. Using encryption might sound really tricky, but phones and web browsers are really smart these days and can do a lot of this for you! If the network requires a shared password to connect, it's not really much more secure, and you should take the same precautions when connecting.

Web Browsing: This is the one you can do the most about. When you use a web browser, look at the address bar and check to see if there is a green lock icon. The URL should also begin with "https" -this means that the browser is using HTTPS, which is a form of encryption. If anyone on the network sees your traffic, they can't read any of it! Read more at Google's Help page: <https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/95617?hl=en>

Plugins: These are add-ons to your web browser that can help make your internet use more secure:

- Privacy Badger: <https://www.eff.org/privacybadger>
- HTTPS Everywhere: <https://www.eff.org/https-everywhere>
- uBlock Origin: <https://github.com/gorhill/uBlock>

Email: If you use Gmail through a web browser or an official app, you are also using encryption to protect your email as you receive it from your email provider. If you are using email provided by your company, or through your internet service provider like Comcast, you may not be using

encryption to protect your email on your laptop or phone. To be safe, don't check your email on an open wifi network until you get a chance to talk to your email provider about securely connecting.

Apps: Many apps on your phone may be set to send traffic back and forth. While many of these apps will use encryption to protect you (ones such as WhatsApp, iMessages, Signal, Facebook and Twitter do), you might want to log out of or disable ones you aren't sure about.

Using your phone as a hot spot

Many phones can be used to create your own wifi access point for a computer or tablet to connect to. Setting this up will vary by your specific phone and provider, so you should check with your cellphone service provider for directions.

As an example, here is how to turn an iPhone into a wifi access point on Verizon Wireless:

1. go to the iPhone's Settings and scroll down to "Personal Hotspot"

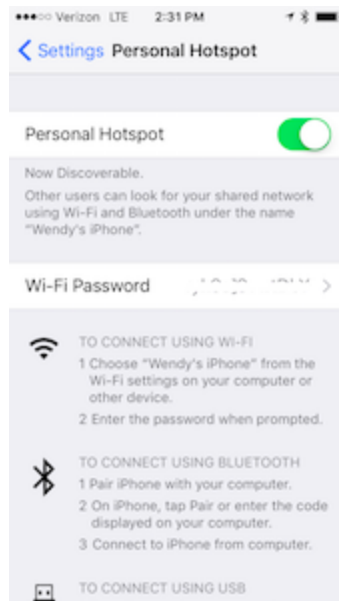


2. tap on "Personal Hotspot"
3. You should see a screen that has a slider next to "Personal Hotspot"



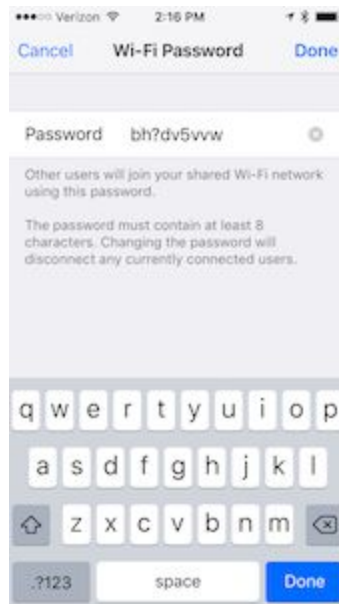
4. Tap the slider to turn on the hotspot

5. The screen will update and tell you the name of the Wi-Fi hotspot



6. You should see the Wi-Fi password on the screen, which you will enter on your laptop when you connect to the hotspot

7.. If you need to change the password, tap on "Wi-Fi Password" and create a new password. You can use 1Password or another password manager to generate a secure random password for you! Otherwise make sure it's complex - that is, that it has upper case characters and non-alphanumeric characters in it



8. tap “Done” when you are finished setting a password
9. Connect your laptop to the Wi-Fi hotspot you have created!

Using a VPN to protect your connection

If you regularly connect to the internet from coffee shops, hotels, or other public access points, you may want to invest in a VPN service.

Although free VPN services are available, we generally do not recommend them. Instead, using a paid service is often the best choice in regards to privacy and ease of use. Here are two that we recommend. They work on Mac and Windows computers as well as iPhones and Android phones:

Freedome: <https://www.f-secure.com/freedome>

- Rough cost: \$4.17 per month, \$49.99 one-time charge

Cloak: <https://www.getcloak.com/>

- Rough cost: \$12.99/month