

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

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CYBER CRIME GOES MOBILE

Mobile devices have become an essential tool for everyday life. We can check in for flights, make online purchases, access bank accounts, and connect to social media—all from the palm of our hand. But this convenience has also opened the door to cyber crime and theft. Use the following tips to learn how to protect your device and your personal security.

What Are The Risks?



- Phones and devices (such as tablets) are easily lost or stolen, and can be easily concealed.
- Devices often store a plethora of personal information, especially when you enable GPS features to various apps.

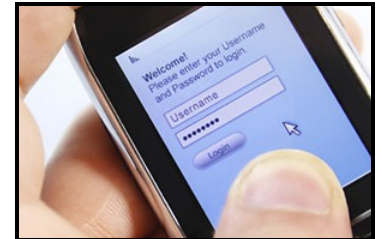
- Some applications are unsafe and can actually enable “phishing” or other malicious attacks.

How To Protect Your Mobile Security

- Use a random password to protect your device.
- Regularly update your operating system and backup the information on your device to your computer.
- Make sure that “https” appears in the address bar of your browser, which means connection is secure.
- Turn the Bluetooth function off after using it. It is another way unknown applications or viruses can access your cell phone.
- Be sure to use applications only from trustworthy and reputable sources.
- Know how to perform a remote wipe to remove data from your device if lost or stolen.



- Install a “phone finder” app that helps you find your device if it gets lost or stolen.



- Limit your activities while using public Wi-Fi. Try not to make purchases or check sensitive email. Public Wi-Fi hotspots are commonly targeted by hackers.
- **Never** give apps permission to remember your usernames or passwords; especially for banking or shopping apps.
- Call your service provider immediately if your phone becomes lost or stolen.

Cyber Crime Facts

- The amount of malware (such as viruses) detected on devices in 2012 increased 44% from 2011.
- 95% of mobile malware has been invented within the last year.
- The majority of mobile malware is made for the Android operating system.
- You don’t have to download anything to be a victim. Websites that are not secure can also steal your personal information, such as passwords.

Sources

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