COMMON DEVICE THREATS

If your device is lost, stolen or hacked your emails, contacts, financial information and much more could be at risk from cybercriminals.

Use this guide to get an understanding of the key cyber-threats you could be exposed to and what you can do to protect yourself.

PHISHING

Attackers attempt to trick you into doing 'the wrong thing', such as clicking a bad link that will download malware or direct you to a malicious website.

MALWARE

Malicious software or file that can infect a device and be a security risk to the user.

RANSOMWARE

Locks the user out of their files or their device, then demands an anonymous online payment to restore access.

SPYWARE

Unwanted software that infiltrates your device, stealing your internet usage data and sensitive information.

MALICIOUS WEBSITES & APPS

Websites or Apps that contain malware or malicious content that compromise your data and device.

UNSECURED WI-FI

Hackers can steal unencrypted data from users' devices accessing the internet through unsecured public Wi-Fi.

DEVICE THEFT

Criminals steal your device, then use it to commit criminal acts online.

Pocket Guide to

MOBILE DEVICE SECURITY

Simple tips to help secure your data and mobile devices

NI Cyber Security Centre

CYBER CHECK LIST

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR DEVICE SECURITY

Review your device security and implement these eight tips. You will significantly reduce the chances of anyone gaining unauthorised access to your device and data. You will also protect your device from being used for malicious purposes.

1

USE A SECURE LOCK SCREEN

- Always lock your device with a passcode, pattern, fingerprint or facial recognition
- Activate auto-lock if your device is idle. Keep this to a short timeframe 30 secs - 1 min max.

TICK OFF EACH TIP AS YOU MAKE YOUR CHECKS ☑

2

SET SECURE PASSWORDS

- Set strong passwords using three random words, the longer the better.
- Don't reuse passwords on multiple accounts.
- Use a password manager or your browser to store your passwords.

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3

USE TWO FACTOR AUTHENTICATION & MONITOR YOUR NOTIFICATIONS

- Use Two Factor Authentication (2FA) on all accounts you access on your device if offered e.g. password followed by an sms security code.
- Monitor your device notifications for any untoward activity.

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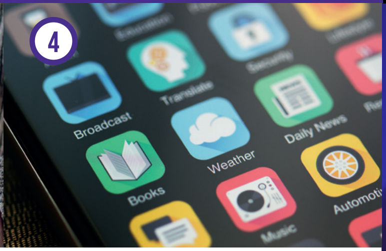

4

KEEP YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM & APPS UP-TO-DATE

- Ensure your Operating System (OS) and apps are regularly updated.
- Ensure auto-updates are enabled in your app settings
- Delete apps you don't use.

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5

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

- Only give apps that you trust access to functions and sensitive data, such as your location, camera, photos, and microphone.
- Review any analytic or advertising settings on your account, apps or services and remove any you do not want or need.

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6

ONLY DOWNLOAD FROM TRUSTED SITES

- Only download from trusted sites e.g. Google Play or the App Store.
- Hackers can hide malware in applications that look legitimate.

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7

BE WARY OF PUBLIC WI-FI CONNECTIONS

- Public Wi-Fi is available almost anywhere such as town centres, coffee shops, hotels etc. However, it may not always be secure. Consider using your phone as a secure hotspot for connecting a laptop to the internet, or use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) app to protect yourself.

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8

ACTIVATE 'FIND MY DEVICE'

- Use the "find my device service" from your operating system provider.
- You can remotely locate and lock your device so that no one else can use it or access your personal data stored on it.

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ALWAYS REPORT CYBERCRIME, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE BECOME A VICTIM

PSNI

T:101 (Non Emergency)
W: www.psni.police.uk

ACTION FRAUD

T: 0300 123 2040
W: www.actionfraud.police.uk

If you are in immediate danger and need assistance dial 999

VISIT OUR DEVICE HUB FOR GUIDANCE AND TUTORIALS

SCAN ME

nicybersecuritycentre.gov.uk/mobile-security

NI Cyber Security Centre

We work to make Northern Ireland cyber safe, secure and resilient for its citizens and businesses.

Contact us
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