

Mobile Tips for Summer Travel

It's June. That means school is out and family trips will be in! Whether traveling for work or family fun, stay cyber-safe while away from home by following some simple practices to help keep you and your devices safe and your travel plans from going awry.

Enable Security Features to Protect and "Find My Phone"

Misplacing or having your devices stolen can put a damper on vacation plans or negatively impact your business plans. It can easily happen to anyone. *What should you do?*

- Set up the "Find My Phone" feature on your devices - allowing you to find, remotely wipe data, or disable it if it gets into the wrong hands.
- Keep it password protected – using a passcode or other security feature (like a finger swipe) to lock your mobile device in case it gets misplaced or stolen.
- Update your software before you go – then turn on "automatic updates" to keep it that way.
- Back up photos and files - then remove any sensitive files not needed in case it gets lost or stolen.

Rethink Public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi at the airport, hotels, or coffee shops is very convenient, but NOT secure. Anyone using the same Wi-Fi network could potentially see what you are doing while you're connected. *What should you do?*

- Limit public Wi-Fi use, and avoid logging into accounts with sensitive information, such as banking and email.



- Consider a trusted virtual private network (VPN) or a personal/mobile hotspot when you need a more secure connection.
- Set your device to ask permission before connecting to a Wi-Fi network.
- Bluetooth enables you to connect wirelessly with other devices and could enable cybercriminals to connect to you. Disable this to only connect to wireless and Bluetooth networks when you want.
- Remember, some devices auto-connect to any available wireless network, and having Bluetooth on enables your device to connect wirelessly with other devices.

Actively Manage Location Services

Location tools come in handy while navigating a new place, but they can also expose your location - even through photos you take. *What should you do?*

- Check which apps have permission to access your location (you may be surprised).
- Turn off location services for those that don't need them or when not in use, and limit how and when you share your location on social media.

Finally, be aware of your surroundings and where and how you use your devices in public areas. It's easy to be distracted in a new place while having fun with family and friends or while away on a business trip. To avoid setting your devices down and losing them, keep them on your person (in a pocket or carry bag) and not in your hands. It only takes a second to set it down without thinking and lose it. Or have some bad guy pick it up and ruin your day, your week, your month, or even your year.

Safe travels!