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Information Technology Services

Information and Cybersecurity Awareness

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Protect your devices

'Do your part – be cyber smart'

Cybercriminals thrive on smaller mobile connected devices. A smartphone can provide access to the same information as a big computer, and, on top of that, is more vulnerable due to its size and connectivity.

Introduction

ALL your devices – desktops, laptops, tablets, smartphones, smart watches, Internet-of-Things devices, etc. – carry sensitive information that are put at risk by criminal activities. Online threats include websites and web-based systems that download malware, malicious apps that steal personal data and network sniffers that steal login credentials. Physical threats include sensitive information being read from a screen and devices being stolen or lost. Any if these may lead to sensitive information being accessed, corrupted or lost.

How to protect yourself

You can protect your devices and your information by applying the following guidelines:

- Use strong passwords or passcodes on all your devices. Experts advise that using a pin is more secure than a swipe pattern, which may leave a fingerprint trail and is easier to guess than a passcode.



- Install an antivirus app on your device. Activate additional functionalities provided, such as erasing your data if you lost your mobile device and informing you of apps that are not safe.
- Lock your screen after use. You can do this manually or by setting a short time period for auto locking.
- Make sure the public Wi-Fi you are using is encrypted, otherwise make use of a VPN to secure your communication.
- It is advised to turn off your wireless connectivity (Wi-Fi and Bluetooth) when not using it, to prevent access to your device by hackers.
- Ensure that you use the latest update of your software.
- Download apps from trusted manufacturers' stores only.
- Encrypt the data on your device using encryption features bundled with your device. In case of theft or loss of a device, this will prevent access to your information.
- Be vigilant about apps that want access to your contacts, photos, etc. without a valid reason.

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