

Information and Cybersecurity Awareness

Email ithelp@up.ac.za | www.up.ac.za/itsecurity



Don't let your smart device outsmart you —Part 1: Protect yourself and your smart device

'Make your home a haven for online safety'

Every digital product is a computer hacker's dream. The valuable information stored on these devices is leading to a massive rise in online theft of personal documents and bank details and is a leading cause of identity fraud.

Introduction

Any electronic device that connects to the Internet to share data can be classified as a smart device. Besides smartphones, PCs and printers, smart devices also include your smart TV, refrigerator, watch and even your smart home.

Most smartphones and devices come with security features that most people know how to use and usually do—like a PIN or pattern. However, what data does your TV or smart fridge collect about you? You should be concerned about where that information goes and how it can be used. What type of remote-control features does the device have?



What can I do?

Always choose smart devices that can be easily and regularly updated and have usernames and passwords that you can personally manage and change. Make sure you know what information your smart device collects and why. If this is not obvious, don't assume the device is secure. Make sure you know about the remote-control features of the device and how to protect them from exploitation. Always disable remote-control features if you do not use them.

Don't neglect physical security

Make the physical security of your smart devices a priority. Simply keeping persons away from your devices, such as your home Wi-Fi, is enough to prevent most insider incidents. Secure your devices with strong authentication and look after information on hard copy. Ensure all your sensitive documents are secured correctly and disposed of securely.

Use strong authentication

Passwords are out-of-date. Password-cracking technology has advanced drastically, and stronger passwords spawn unsecured storing of passwords in unsecured locations. It is more secure to apply strong multifactor authentication or even use password phrases that only you know instead of a single-word password.

SEE MORE

 [Cybersecurity 101](#)

READ MORE

 [How you can protect your smart devices from cyberattack](#)

DO MORE

 [10 ways to prevent computer security threats from insiders](#)