

Public WiFi



Everyone wants to be connected to the internet, especially if it's free! But maybe that free WiFi has a few extra surprises you weren't expecting. Public WiFi can be an easy nesting ground for attackers to harvest information about you.



The security of public WiFi is often very insecure



You have no idea who else is on the network with you

Turn off WiFi when not in use

When your WiFi is enabled on your phone, it is always broadcasting information about wireless networks it has previously connected to. Using this information it is possible to track where a phone has been by seeing where it has connected to. It is also possible for an attacker to force a phone to connect to them by impersonating a network you've connected to in the past. The attacker could then potentially monitor any background tasks on your phone, such as email downloads.

Don't access sensitive data

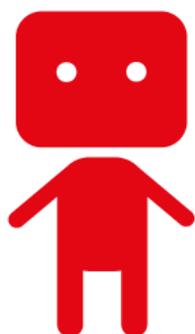
Do not access anything sensitive (such as online banking) on public WiFi. If an attacker can gain access to the same wireless network as you, it is easy for them to then view a large majority of websites you visit, including redirecting you to other, more malicious sites.

Consider using a VPN

A "Virtual Private Network" (VPN) can also be used for extra protection on public WiFi. A VPN encrypts data between your device and the VPN server, before moving the data to the website. This means that everything you access over the internet is encrypted and secured, even if the site doesn't use HTTPS. VPN providers charge for this service, however there are comparison charts available to find the best deal.

What if I have to use public WiFi?

If using public WiFi is an absolute must, ensure websites have a padlock at the address bar. This sends everything encrypted over a protocol known as HTTPS (where the S stands for "secure") and makes it harder for an attacker to read. Also remember to check the URL for each website you visit to ensure you are on the correct official sites.



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