

Be Cyber Secure: Connecting on the Go

Tips to protect yourself, and how to respond if you think you have been targeted.



With Wi-Fi available almost everywhere, it is now quite easy to connect while on the go — and multitask wherever you are. But using public or unsecured networks could expose your private information to cyber criminals who steal your passwords when you're using public Wi-Fi. Or they may watch your keystrokes as you type out a PIN number or a password — a practice called “shoulder surfing.” Once these criminals have your sensitive information they can potentially gain access to your entire virtual world.

How to Protect Yourself

Be proactive:

- **Disable remote and automatic connection** to Wi-Fi and Bluetooth on your devices.
- **Avoid public Wi-Fi networks whenever possible**, especially in airports, hotels and cafes, and never use those networks to access financial accounts. Instead, use a network you trust or your cellular network.
- **Research and install a virtual private network**, or VPN, on your devices to encrypt and protect your internet traffic and passwords, especially when using public Wi-Fi. Be aware, you may have difficulty accessing some financial websites through a VPN due to anti-fraud protections.
- **Stay constantly aware** of your surroundings and use privacy screens when you can.
- **Keep personal information** stored on mobile devices to a minimum.

If you suspect you've been targeted:

- **Don't delay.** Acting quickly after an event can minimize its impact.
- **Call your bank** and freeze financial accounts that may be affected and inform credit bureaus.
- **Change all passwords** that may have been breached.
- **File reports** with the relevant local law enforcement officials.
- **Document everything** about the event. The more information you have, the better armed you will be to assist an investigation by your company, your bank and law enforcement officials, and the better prepared you will be against future events.

The Growing Threat, Measured

5.3 BN

Total number of internet user by 2023.¹

\$194MM

Losses attributed to personal data breaches in 2020.²

70%

Percentage of the global population that will have mobile connectivity by 2023.¹

¹ Cisco, Annual Internet Report 2018-2023, Updated 2020

² FBI, IC3 Report, 2020

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Why It's Important

Using secure Wi-Fi and maintaining good spatial awareness is important to keeping your information and data safe. With your passwords or other stolen information, criminals can:

- **Transfer funds** out of your accounts or charge purchases to them
- **Steal your identity** and claim your tax refund or government benefits
- **Create a fake identity** with some of your information and use it to open a new credit card or apply for a loan
- **Phish** using your email address or social media accounts to reach out to your contacts and

Global Information Security at Bank of America

The GIS team is made up of information security professionals staffing multiple security operations centers across the globe who work 24/7 to keep data and information safe.

For more information, go to:
www.bankofamerica.com/privacy/overview.go

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