

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

Week 4: THE FUTURE OF CONNECTED DEVICES

Securing Your Internet Devices

Shake up your password protocol

- Change your device's default password. This is one of the most important steps to take in protecting internet-connected devices. According to National Institute of Standards and Technology guidance, you should consider using the longest password or passphrase permissible. Get creative and create a unique password for all your internet-connected devices.

Keep tabs on your apps

- Many connected devices are supported by a mobile application. Your mobile device could be filled with apps running in the background or using default permissions and gathering your personal information without your knowledge. This puts your identity and privacy at risk. Check your app permissions and learn to just say "no" to privilege requests that are unnecessary. Only download apps from trusted vendors and sources.

Secure your network

- Properly secure the wireless network you use to connect Internet-enabled devices. Consider placing these devices on a separate and dedicated network.
- Whether it's your computer, smartphone, game console, or other network device, the best defense is to stay updated with the latest security software and operating systems. If you have the option to enable automatic updates to defend against the latest risks, turn it on.
- Remember: **if you connect it, protect it!**

The Internet of Things

The "Internet of Things" refers to a range of devices including cars, appliances, fitness trackers, lighting, healthcare devices, home security, and more. These devices contain sensors that can talk to other machines and trigger other actions. Examples include devices that direct your car to an open spot in a parking lot; mechanisms that control energy use in your home; and smart watches that track eating, sleeping, and exercise habits.

In 2017, there were 27 billion devices connected using IoT. This number is expected to increase to 125 billion by just 2030, which will put about **15 connected devices into the hands of every consumer**. The \$170 billion IoT market is expected to grow to \$561 billion by 2022.

It is important that we all take measures to secure these devices. While they make our lives more convenient, they also can represent a security risk to your personal data. For more cybersecurity information and guidance, visit the National Security Agency's Cybersecurity Information [page](#).

