

Mobile Device and Web-based Applications – Spring Refresh

Are you still doing your digital spring cleaning? That's great! With summer coming and more time outdoors and away from home, it's a good time to look at your mobile devices and the applications you have running on them.

It's easy to be distracted when our ever-increasing internet use provides many benefits like instant communication, directions, shopping, games, and entertainment. It can also make us vulnerable to web-based threats and missed red flags while multitasking.

Securing your mobile device for the internet may seem challenging, but following a few tips can make a big difference:

- **Avoid using autofill** – Some websites and applications automatically fill in your username when you visit them. Turn autofill off as soon as possible.
- **Log out** – After using mobile applications, especially those linked to one another, such as Google applications, ensure that you log off each time you finish using them.
- **Use only trusted stores** – Research and download apps from secure stores like the App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android)
- **Enable tracking** - Consider enabling Find My iPhone (Apple) or Find My Device (Android) to track your mobile device if it goes missing.



- **Update your software** – Don't ignore updates! They include security improvements and issue fixes. Then, set automatic updates.

Review the old, Bring in the new

- Review all Privacy, Security, and Permission settings. Then adjust as needed for your comfort level.
- Don't need it? Delete it! Delete any apps you don't use regularly or were a one-time download (like for conferences, or travel, i.e., sites/maps) to increase your security.
- Be sure to review and understand the details of an app before downloading and installing it.
- Check to make sure the vendor or creator of the app is reputable.
- Be aware that apps may request access to your location, camera, contacts, personal information, etc. Carefully consider if they need it for the services they are providing.

Know your apps - To find a list of downloaded apps on your phone, follow these steps.

For iOS users:

- Go to your Settings app > Scroll to the bottom to see a list of all downloaded apps.
- To check which apps have access to your camera, microphone, and location, go to:

Settings > Privacy for a complete list of apps.

For Android users:

- Go to your Settings app. Select Apps > See All Apps
- To check which apps have access to your camera, microphone, and location, go to:

Security > Privacy > Permission Manager for a complete list of apps.