Tips for Securing your Devices at Home

May 2020

ABC's of Security

Awareness

Backups

Patching

Desktop & Laptop Computers

- know what you have to lose
- use a firewall and anti-malware
- install updates for your operating system and apps
- back up your important data
  …and then disconnect the device
- consider using a password manager
- don't click suspicious links and attachments
- use strong passwords and don't share them (better yet use 2FA)

…at work and at home

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Passwords

Who has heard this advice?

- use strong passwords
- don't share them with anyone
- include uppercase, lowercase, punctuation, haiku, and symbols
- make sure they are 8 characters long
- don't use the same one twice
- don't write them down
- change them every day

NO!

Backups (Personal)

1) buy a storage device

4 TB = ~$100

2) connect to your computer

3) copy files to it

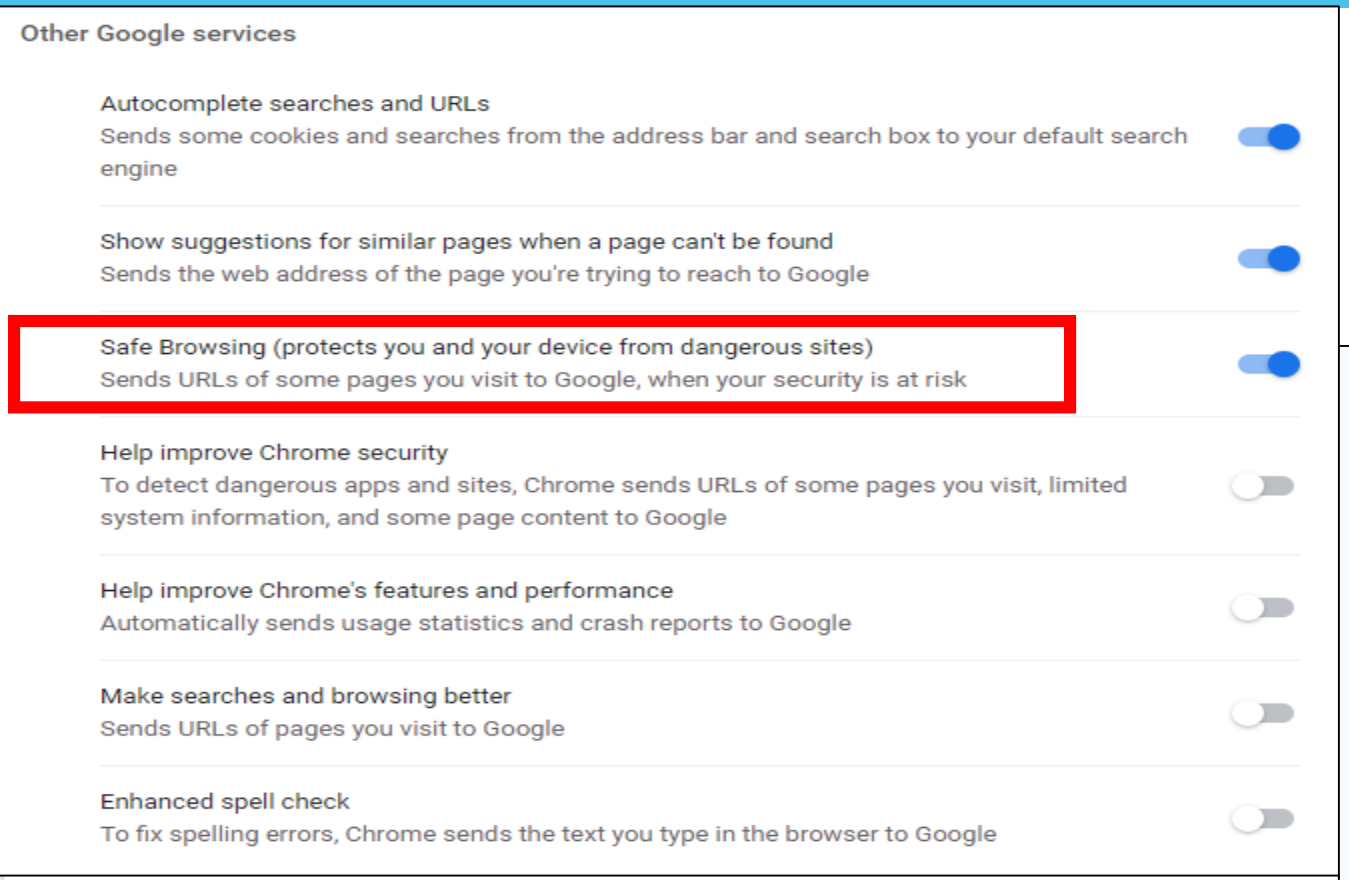
4) disconnect from computer

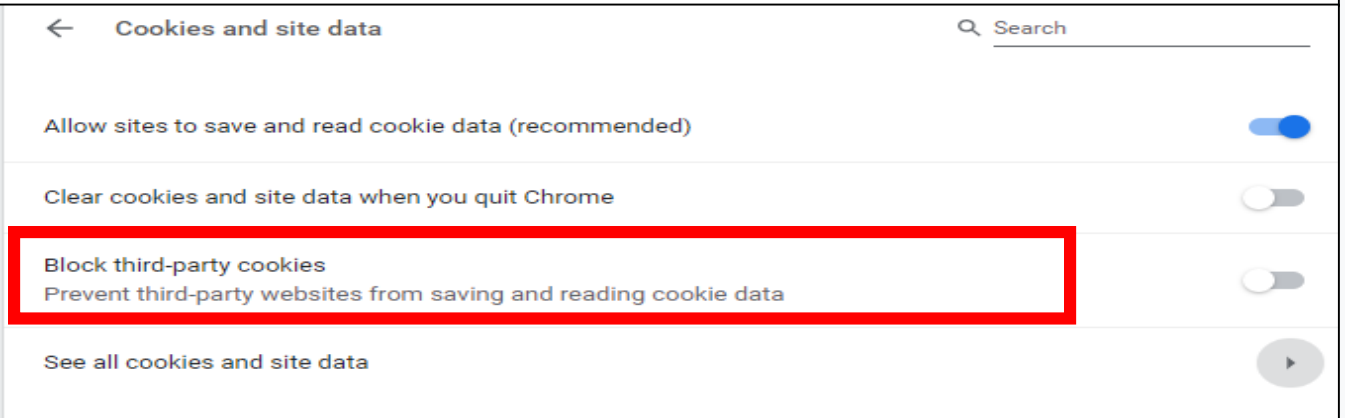
5) repeat on a schedule

Safe Browsing

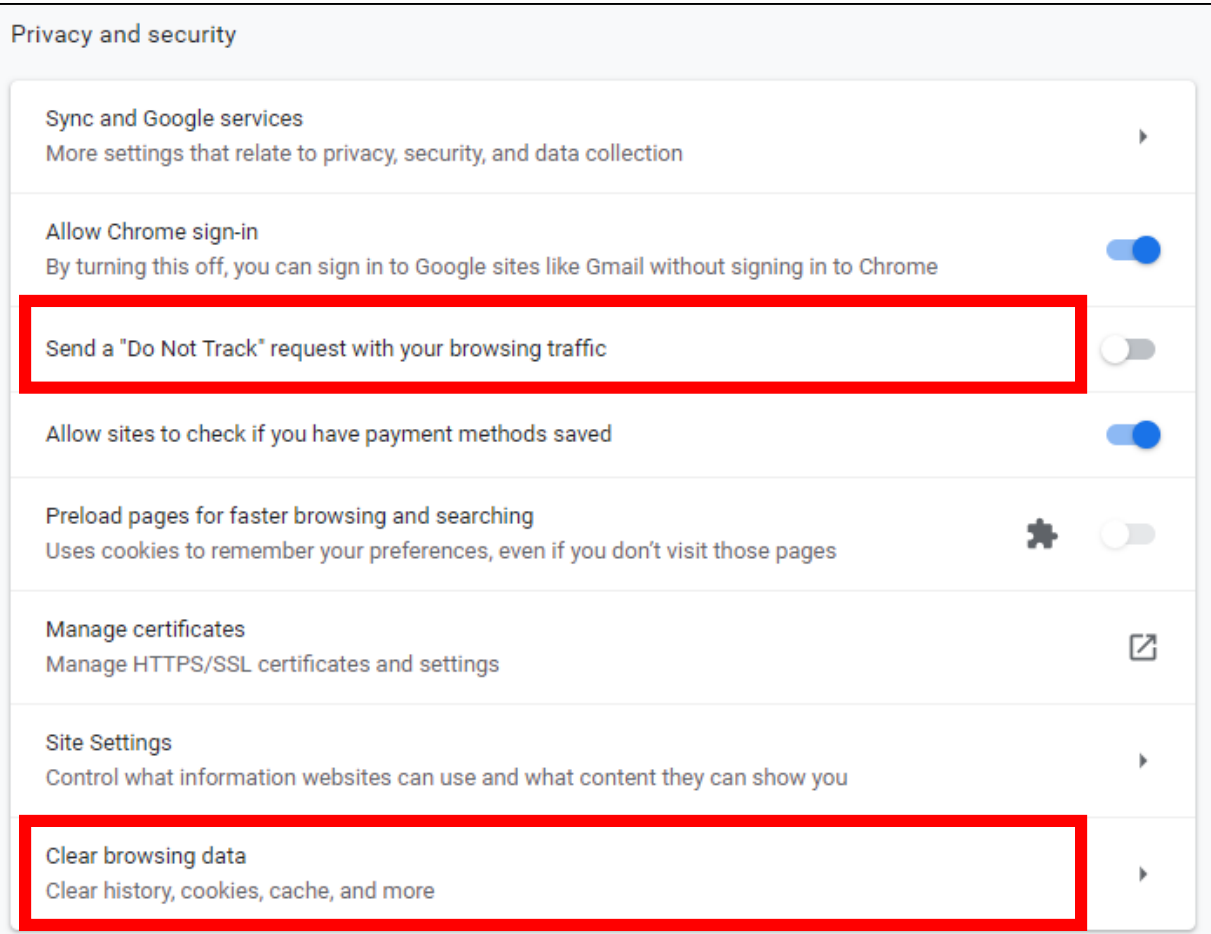
- surf to only reputable sites
- watch for the lock/secure browsing
- consider different browsers or computers for general browsing vs banking
- consider a popup/ad blocker
- consider blocking scripts or at least check browser settings are correct…

Browser Settings

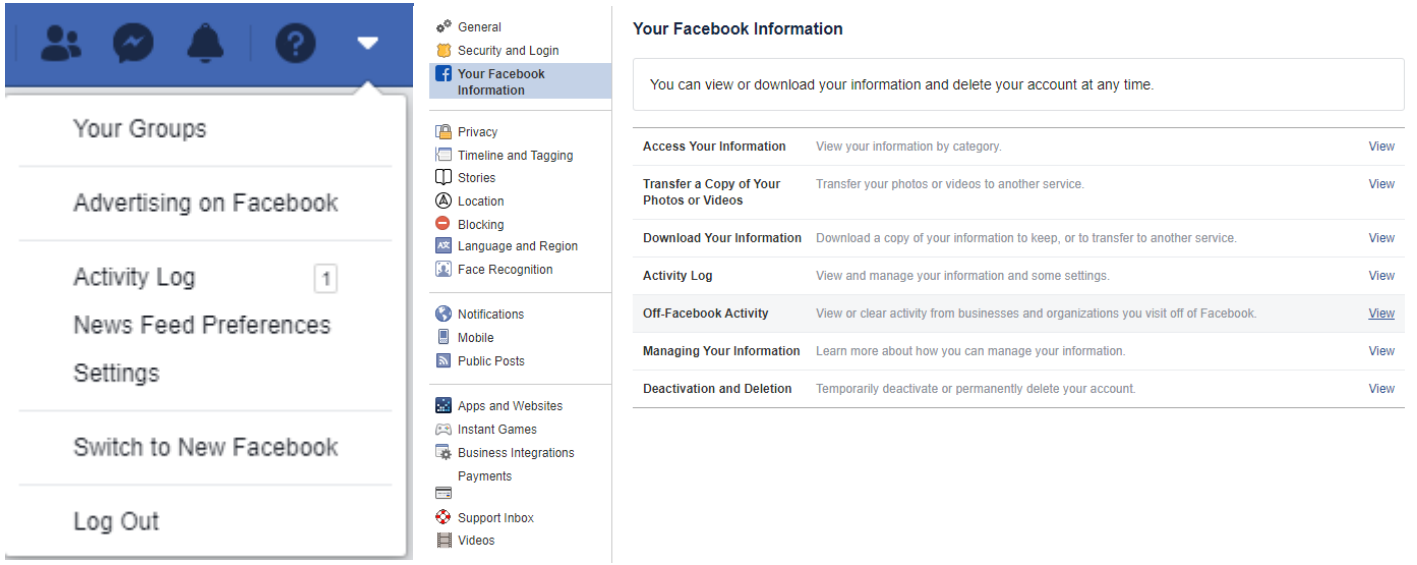


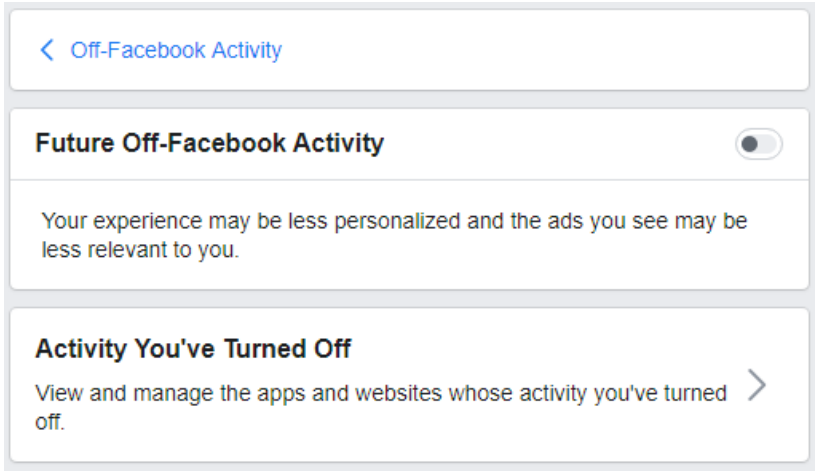


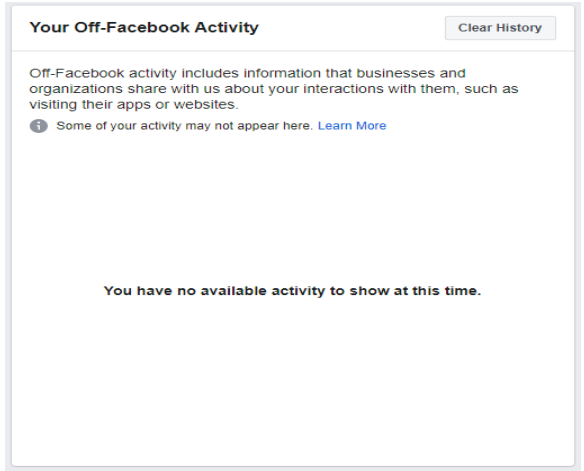
- review browser privacy & security settings
- clear browsing data on occasion



Social Media







- review your privacy and security settings on social media
- new ‘features’ are added and agreements are changed
- some features are enabled by default
- customers may not be aware

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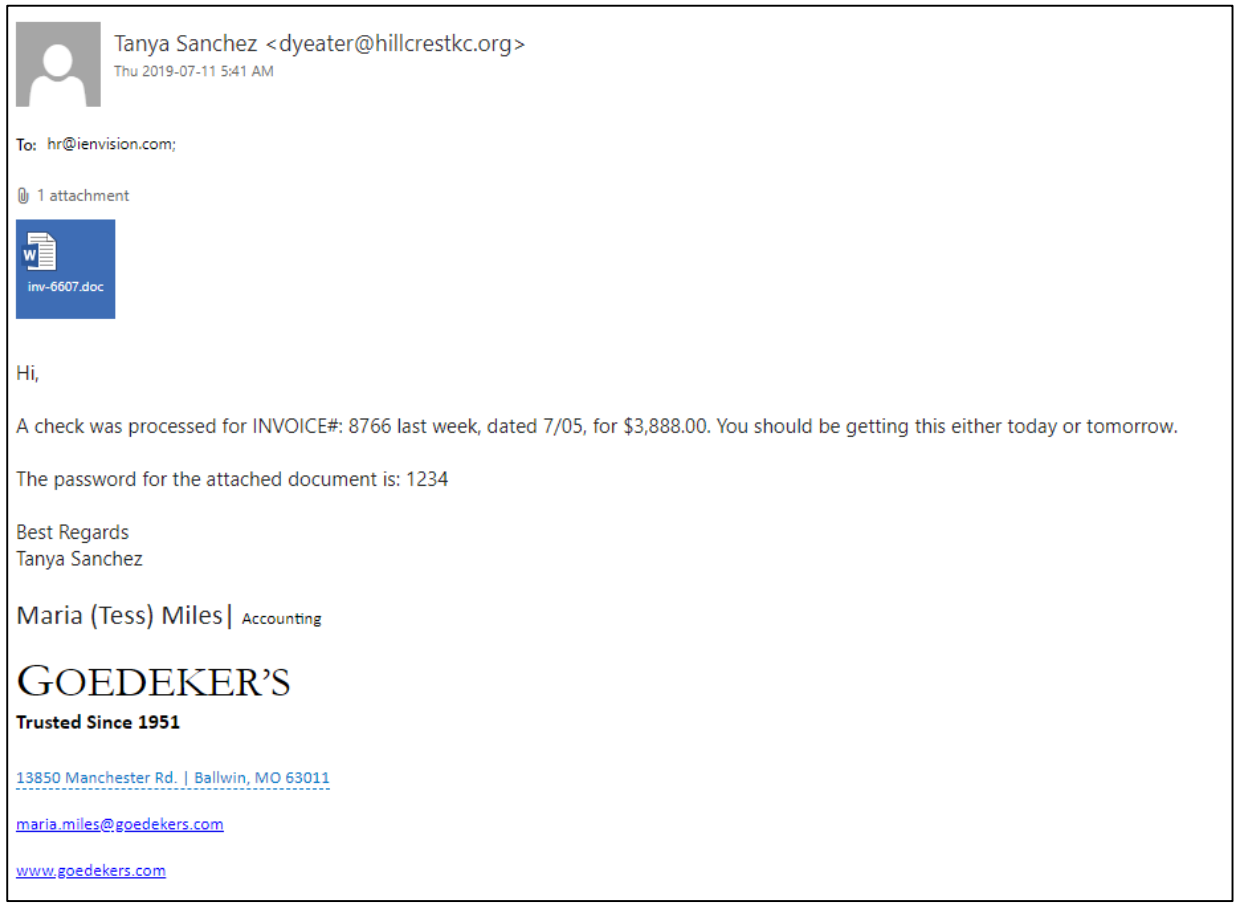
Emails & Phishing (Example)



Tanya Sanchez <dyeater@hillcrestkc.org>
Thu 2019-07-11 5:41 AM

To: hr@ienvision.com;

1 attachment

inv-6607.doc

Hi,

A check was processed for INVOICE#: 8766 last week, dated 7/05, for $3,888.00. You should be getting this either today or tomorrow.

The password for the attached document is: 1234

Best Regards
Tanya Sanchez

Maria (Tess) Miles | Accounting

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- phishing is effective
  - create a sense of urgency
  - play on people's emotions
- consider
  - look at the from address, subject, to address
  - beware attachments including PDF, doc, and docx
  - beware links – hover over
  - what are they asking you to do?

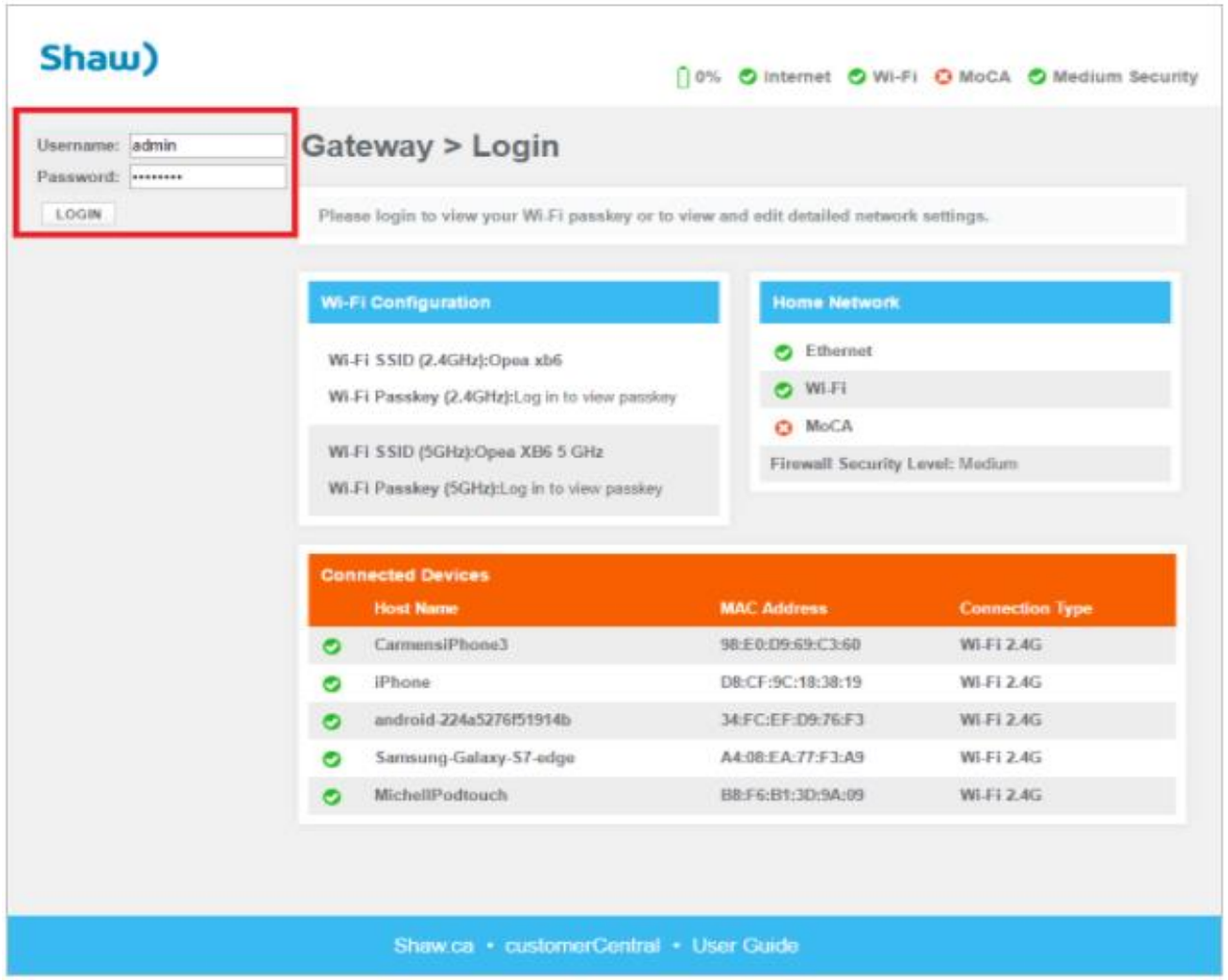
It can happen to anyone…

Wi-Fi

- change default username, password, SSID
- disable guest, generic accounts
- enable encryption (use WPA2)
- consider disabling SSID broadcast
- consider multiple WiFi networks for different purposes (eg. IOT)
- limit broadcast strength
- exercise caution on public WiFi (and consider VPN)

Do you know what SSID you are connected to? How do you know it's the right one?

Wi-Fi



Exercise

1. check the IP address on your computer
2. surf to the IP address listed as the default gateway (eg. 192.168.1.1)
3. log into your residential gateway router
4. review your username and password
5. review the SSID
6. **review the devices connected to your network and see if you can identify each one**

SmartPhones

- set a strong PIN and don’t share it with anyone
- install updates for OS and apps (or turn on auto-updates)
- don’t root or jailbreak your phone
- don’t “sideload” apps from “unknown sources”
- consider whether an anti-malware program is useful

At work follow company rules…

Internet of Things

- protect with a firewall
- consider a separate network
- ensure patched / updates installed
- read the fine print / agreement
- beware the app
- weigh the benefits and implications
  (eg. what does it tell people about you)
- disable guest/default accounts
- change default passwords

Summary

- attacks are increasing in frequency and everyone needs to take steps to protect themselves at work and at home
- ensure the steps you take are proportionate with what you have to lose
- focus on doing the basics consistently to stop 80% of the problems
- stay alert - watch for anything out of the ordinary and think before you click
- remember… security is everyone's responsibility and you're not alone…