

# Cybersecurity: Internet of Things

Protect your internet-enabled, non-computing devices.

## What is it?

The Internet of Things (IoT) is the network of non-computing devices that are connected to the internet, like a smart TV, a virtual assistant, or a baby monitor that connects to your smartphone. These devices are convenient, but can be hard to secure.

## What can I do?

### Unplug when not in use

Consider unplugging your smart devices when you're not using them. Some devices may be recording you without your consent or knowledge.

### Add a password

Introduce passwords to as many devices as you can. Check the settings and the user manual to see if this is an option for you.

If an IoT device comes with a default password, be sure to change it when you set up the device for the first time.

### Update software and firmware

Keep the software and firmware up to date in every device.

Software updates can include security patches that address known vulnerabilities. Failing to install them may leave your device—and personal information—vulnerable to attackers.

Depending on the device, the manufacturer may push updates directly to you. If not, check the manufacturer website regularly.

Consider keeping a log to help you keep track of which devices connect to the internet and the most recent updates you installed.

### Be an informed consumer

Do your research before you purchase any IoT product to see if there are any known vulnerabilities or common security complaints. For example, attackers may be able to tap into the camera of an internet-enabled baby monitor.

Remember that while price does not always correlate with better security, studies suggest that lower-end products offer less protection.

### Enable encryption

When devices are connected, they trade information and data. Encrypting as many points as possible helps protect your personal information.

If an IoT device does not offer encryption, consider shopping around until you find one that does.



### Create a dedicated network

Consider setting up a secondary network for your IoT devices. Having a separate internet network will isolate attackers and help prevent them from reaching other devices, like your computer or cellphone, through your network.

### Why should I use it?

IoT devices generally offer fewer user protections than traditional devices like computers or tablets.

Despite this, they may still offer a window into your life and personal information by giving cybercriminals an opportunity to record video, listen into your conversations, and more.

#### CYBERSECURITY TIPS

Visit [Alberta.ca/cybersecurity-in-alberta](https://alberta.ca/cybersecurity-in-alberta) for more information.

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