

QUICK TIPS

5 STEPS FOR SAFER CONNECTIVITY

- 1 Think before you post! Whatever you post online can be copied and shared; thus it can be permanently available online
- 2 Control which apps get access to the information within your phone. This includes locations services, contacts, calendar and photos amongst others
- 3 Respect others' privacy; ask before sharing photos
- 4 Take the required precautions to limit any undesired app related purchases
- 5 Children may be more vulnerable to the risks associated with owning and using a smart phone. Ensure you discuss the risks and instil in them a sense of responsibility.

RESPONSIBLE USE

PRIVACY

Being constantly connected offers great opportunities but also a number of risks. Having an internet connection, a photo and video camera, and a GPS in your hands anywhere you go, makes it very easy to unintentionally reveal a lot of information about yourself and others. The GPS technology within your phone is used to record the date, time and location a photo is taken. This information is consequently revealed when the same photo is shared online. Remember that what you share online can be viewed by strangers.

Internet connectivity coupled with the GPS functionality of your mobile allows you to reveal your current location via the "check-in" service offered by most social networking sites (SNS) such as Facebook, Twitter and Foursquare amongst others.



In order to safeguard your privacy it is important to be aware of what other mobile functions or data the app is connecting to. Apart from the location based services, Facebook, for example, also asks to connect to your contact list in order to synchronise them with their respective profiles. Furthermore, some apps integrate seamlessly amongst themselves. Thus, a picture taken on Instagram may be automatically uploaded onto your Facebook timeline.

EXPENSE – Will all this cost money?

It is of utmost importance to remember that even if apps are downloadable for free, some offer in-app purchases. These purchases might include the possibility of buying an ad-free version of the same app or a version of the app which offers more functions. Some in-app purchases also allow you to, for example, progress in a game. Your phone might end up in other people's hands. Take the necessary measures to control downloading or making in-app purchases on smart phones.

CONCLUSION

Knowing the functions of your smart phone will help you make full use of its potential in a safe manner. It is highly recommended that you read through the manual provided with your device and seek help through your respective service provider in case of any difficulties.

Make sure that you've thought about the necessary precautions such as setting a pass code in order to prevent anyone tampering with your phone or accessing personal data.



DO YOU INTEND ON GIVING THE SMART PHONE TO YOUR CHILDREN?

As explained, when used wisely, these functions can help you protect your children. However, if you intend to buy a smart phone for your children, it is important to remember that certain functions might also pose some dangers.

- Unfiltered access to the web brings about a number of risks, particularly in the hands of children. One of the major concerns is that being mobile makes adult supervision very difficult. One has to keep in mind that smart phones can connect to Wi-Fi hotspots available around the islands.
- It is also worth noting that, through various apps and using the Internet, children can send SMSs, chat or video chat via their mobile phones even when they do not have any credit left.



- Although location based services may be useful for you to know the whereabouts of your children, strangers may also get access to this information via various platforms or apps children might install on their smart phones.
- Photos and videos taken by smart phones can easily be shared, sometimes unintentionally, via various online platforms. Often a time, when sharing such content, the associated information such as location and date are also shared.
- To avoid receiving any shockingly expensive bills opt to turn off in-app purchases or, set purchase limits, or, if you prefer, set your phone to ask for your app store password every time you attempt to make a purchase.

be SMART!
ONLINE!

GOING ONLINE
GOING MOBILE
SAFELY

INTRODUCTION

The majority of mobiles on the market are smart phones. These mini-computers give users 24/7 access to the Internet and also offer other functionalities which make life easier especially when on the move. Furthermore, if the smart phone does not contain all that you need, you are highly likely to be able to download an app that would do exactly what you require.

Mobile phones offer a sense of safety; the very fact that, from wherever you are, you can reach out for help definitely contributes to this. The additional features offered by smart phones may be used to add to the safety you can get from using the device and hence derive more peace of mind. However, it is important to take note of further implications which may jeopardise your safety.



WHAT CAN SMART PHONES DO?

OTHER THAN ALLOWING PEOPLE TO TALK AND SEND SMSs, SMART PHONES NOW ALSO OFFER A HOST OF OTHER FEATURES THAT DISTINGUISH IT FROM CONVENTIONAL MOBILE PHONES.

CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET

All service providers offer mobile data internet. This technology allows you to connect to the Internet from practically anywhere using the service providers' network. Such connections reach speeds fast enough to make it possible for activities usually done on much larger devices such as laptops. Smart phones can also connect to any available free Wi-Fi hotspot.



LOCATION BASED SERVICES

These services utilise the Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver built into smart phones. Through this system your phone can receive a signal which identifies your exact location and time information anywhere on Earth from one of four GPS satellites.

Unless you want everyone to know your whereabouts in real time, it is important to be aware of which apps have requested access to this information and it is up to you whether or not to accept such requests.



PHOTOS & VIDEOS

Nowadays most mobile phones offer the facility to take and capture high quality photos and videos. What is captured can be easily shared via Bluetooth or Internet.

It is important to respect others' privacy and not take pictures of others and circulate them without their permission. Once a picture has been sent to friends through Bluetooth, or is shared online, you lose control of it; it may be shared further beyond your network of friends. The same applies to sharing your own pictures online.



APP STORES & PURCHASES

When connected to the Internet, applications, more commonly known as apps, can be downloaded on your smart phone. These programs enhance the existing functionality of your mobile.

Apps are downloadable from the following online stores accessible directly from your smart phone: App Store for iOS devices, Google Play for Android devices, Apps+Games Store for Windows devices, and Blackberry World on the Blackberry operating system.

