



HOLIDAY ONLINE SECURITY



INTRODUCTION

This holiday season, many people will depend on their home wireless systems and video conferencing to connect with family and loved ones.

There are important steps consumers can take to keep their connections safe from unwanted intrusions and harmful malware.





BASIC WIRELESS SECURITY

The following tips could help increase your wireless security:

- Use encryption: it is the easiest way to ensure the security of your communications, at home or in public. The two most common types of encryptions are Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP), and Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA), and the strongest one commonly available is WPA2.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts, especially for the most sensitive ones (bank accounts, credit cards, legal or tax records and files containing medical information.)
- Don't set your devices to automatically connect to Wi-Fi or Bluetooth connections (except for your home networks): hackers can set up a connection that your device accepts, and you won't even know it is happening.



VIDEO CONFERENCING

The following steps can help keep your video conference calls secure from unwanted intrusions and harmful malware:

- Password protect your video conference calls.
- Change the settings so the “host” must log in first before anyone else.
- Use the “waiting room” feature to screen participants
- Lock the meeting when all invited participants have logged in.
- Use randomly-generated meeting IDs
- The host can turn off file sharing and screen sharing.





HOME WI-FI SECURITY

Take some time these holidays to make your home Wi-Fi network more secure:

- Turn the router's encryption on.
- Change the default name of the Wi-Fi network.
- Change the default password of the Wi-Fi network.
- Consider using the Media Access Control (MAC) filter, which will only allow pre-approved devices to connect with it.
- Be sure to use anti-virus and anti-spyware software on all devices that connect with the Internet.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For Consumer Guides on other topics, visit the FCC's Consumer Help Center at www.fcc.gov/consumers.
- To learn about the FCC's outreach events and partnership opportunities, visit the Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division's webpage at www.fcc.gov/outreach, or send an email to outreach@fcc.gov.
- To file a complaint with the FCC, go to the FCC's Consumer Complaint Center at consumercomplaints.fcc.gov, or call 1-888-CALL-FCC.
- To register your phone on the Do Not Call Registry, log on to donotcall.gov.