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Smart Home Devices Need Smart Security [1]

September 29, 2021 by Janet Bravo, OIS [2]

Twenty-five billion internet-connected devices are expected to be in use by 2021, according to research company Gartner.

Smart home devices, also known as Internet of Things or IoT, are common home and family products that can connect to the internet. With the push of a smartphone button or a simple voice command, you can control the products from home, work, or the other side of the world.

Examples of smart home devices:

- Smart speakers, such as Amazon Alexa and Google Home
- Home security devices
- Lawncare
- Appliances, thermostats, lighting, windows, pet feeders
- Games, toys

Be aware of and take action to reduce security vulnerabilities:

Smart devices provide undisputable convenience, but they can also come with security vulnerabilities that put your privacy and sensitive information at risk. Reported incidents include eavesdropping, harassment, and theft. Take these actions to help keep your devices secure:

- **Do your homework**. Before purchasing a smart device, consider only those from reputable manufacturers and conduct research to learn about any privacy or security concerns.
- **Secure access**. Use encryption and change the default password to one that is complex and unique. Engage multi-factor authentication where possible.
- **Use separate networks**. Maintain a network for smart devices only. Keep sensitive information on a separate network.
- **Check default permissions**. For each device you install, review privacy settings to make sure you're only sharing what you're comfortable with.
- **Share minimal personal information with smart devices**. Don't share financial information, such as bank details.
- **Maintain your devices**. Keep the software on all devices and apps up to date. If automatic updates are available, turn them on.

Learn more

Buying or Selling a Smart Home? [3]

What is the Internet of Things and How Can We Secure It? [4] (video)

Securing Connected Homes [5] (video)

Do your part to keep information secure at work and home: No matter your profession or position, it is everyone's job to practice good cybersecurity. Organizations and homes cannot be secure without every person doing their part. Online safety and security are a responsibility we all share.

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