



# Internet of Things Tips & Guidelines

2016 has seen over 6.5 billion Internet of Things (IoT) devices unleashed in homes and offices across the globe. That is more than a 30% jump since 2015. These devices often open the door for potential security threats from malware and hackers. If you use a single smart device or dozens, increase the safety with the below tips.

## **Understanding: What is the “Internet of Things.”**

Simply put, the IoT is connecting any device with an on switch to the internet. This includes phones, security systems, game systems, HVAC, lamps, washing machines, watches, vacuum cleaners, cameras and the list goes on and on.

## **Know your Inventory of Devices**

Before you can secure, you need to know what you have. The average home has 5 devices connect to the internet EXCLUDING computers, tablets and phones.

## **Passwords!**

Every smart device that you manage should have a password, change it! Do not use the same password for everything and make the password complex.

## **Keep your smartphone safe.**

Your phone is often the key to the kingdom. If your phone is lost or becomes compromised it can be bad. Be sure to employ the manufacturers recommended security tools to locate or wipe the phone if this occurs. Be sure to use a secure pin as well.

## **Separate Networks (Segmentation)**

Most routers on todays market allow for creation of multiple networks. Creating one specifically for your IoT devices to separate them from your computer and other more secure devices.

## **Install a Firewall**

Firewalls help prevent hackers, viruses and works from reaching your connected devices by denying unauthorized traffic. Most computer systems have this be default, if not there are other firewall options you can research.

## **Patch!**

Most devices come out with patches regularly, these often include security features. Be sure to patch your devices often.

## **Turn off Devices when not in use.& set rules for your kids.**