Securing your new device

Version 8

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Electronic devices are significant investments that play a crucial role in our lives, allowing efficient task performance and access to personal and private information. Given their importance and substantial financial costs, it is vital to handle these devices with the utmost care, particularly in terms of IT security, to safeguard both our valuable data and our investment.

Here's some general advice about keeping your devices in good working order and safe from harm:

- Lock your device
- Keep up to date
- Know what you have
- Use additional protection

Lock your device

To maintain security, always lock your device when not in use or when stepping away from your desk or shared computer. Leaving your device unlocked can lead to unauthorized access and potential data breaches.

Here's some essential advice for locking your devices:

- Set a password, PIN, or pattern on your smartphone
- Use a password-protected screensaver on your computer
- Log off from shared computers before leaving

Keep up to date

Ensure your device's security and performance by keeping it updated. Operating system and software updates, which may prompt you through pop-up messages, should be installed

without delay. These updates often include critical security improvements, protecting your computer from vulnerabilities. Take the responsible approach and install updates promptly to safeguard your device.

Various types of modern computers, such as desktops with a keyboard and mouse, notebooks, tablets, and smartphones, offer a vast array of software options for diverse functionalities. However, it is important to be cautious, as not all software is beneficial. Among the potential threats, malicious software (malware) poses a significant risk, leading to poor device performance and in severe cases, causing harm to you, your family, and your friends. Thus, being vigilant about software choices and maintaining strong IT security measures is crucial to protect your device's well-being and the safety of your personal information and connections.

Know what you have

Familiarize yourself with the pre-installed software on your computer, phone, tablet, or other devices. Take some time to explore and assess its usefulness. If any software seems unnecessary, consider removing it to avoid updates and potential issues. Removing unwanted software also frees up space.

Knowing what's installed on your device helps defend against malware, as unfamiliar applications are more noticeable.

Use additional protection

Enhance your device's protection by taking additional measures. Although many devices now come with built-in security features, it's prudent to take additional measures for safety.

Contrary to common beliefs, all devices, including Mac computers, can be vulnerable to malware. Consider installing antimalware software for maximum protection. Check our page on Malware and Virus Protection for helpful tips and recommendations.

Additionally, safeguard the physical aspect of your device by investing in a hard case or padded bag. This protective gear prevents accidental damage and saves you the hassle of handing over your device, which may contain sensitive information, for repairs.

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