

POSSIBILITIES

Texas A&M Information Technology

Spring 2011

Possibilities On The Go

We're a mobile nation with most of us viewing our cell phone as one of life's necessities. But since many phones are essentially handheld computers, Internet fraud risk, malware and privacy concerns carry over to these devices. You can use the information we've gathered here to help you stay secure.

If you have any questions regarding an IT service, contact Help Desk Central at 979.845.8300 or feel free to email them at helpdesk@tamu.edu.

Tell us what you think about this newsletter by emailing tamu-it@tamu.edu.

Be Smart with your Smart Phone

If you have a smart phone, consider this: small hand-held devices have more storage space, faster connections to the Internet and faster processors than most desktop computers had 10 years ago. These amazing little devices can provide many of the features you value on your computer, from calendars and email to web browsing and even spellcheck. Building these features into a phone along with text messaging, voice mail and a camera makes for a powerful combination that has led to a rapidly growing market.

Industry experts estimate that by 2014, 50 percent of all web surfing in the United States will happen on mobile phones. Scammers and identity thieves are happy to meet you where you are and have already begun to attack this new environment.

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<http://www.identitythiefsecrets.com/mobile-phone-security>



TAMU Email

Texas A&M Information Technology

Get your TAMU Email, calendar and contacts on your mobile device.

Learn more at url.tamu.edu/emailmobile.



Did You Know?

Mobile Devices and International Travel

Planning on taking an international trip? International phone and data roaming rates can be very expensive! Find out the facts about using your cell phone or laptop wireless connection card **before** you leave.

Contact Telecommunications at 979.845.1020 about these cost-saving options:

Add an international calling or data plan to an existing departmental cellular device,

or

Rent an international phone for your trip.

For more information, see url.tamu.edu/celltravel.

Be Smart with your Smart Phone *continued*

Fortunately, many of the tips for protecting your computer also will work on your smart phone.

- **Password protect.** Always set up a login password on your phone.
- **Be careful where you click.** Delete spam texts and emails, and avoid clicking Internet ads.
- **Keep software updated.** Be sure that you take advantage of security updates that are released for smart phone operating systems and applications.
- **Be suspicious of information requests.** If a website or mobile app requests confidential information or passwords, consider why the information is needed and who is asking. When in doubt, don't give it out.
- **Wipe it before throwing it away.** When upgrading to a new phone, make sure to erase your old phone before discarding it.

When in doubt, **don't give it out.**

Security features such as encryption, password settings and Bluetooth settings are different for each smartphone. Learn specifics for your phone at url.tamu.edu/mobilesecurity.

Checking In on Location-based Apps

Location-based applications let you find the whereabouts of friends, receive ads or coupons from nearby businesses, or interact through games and other activities. This technology can provide learning opportunities by linking information to geographical locations.



Texas A&M has a page on Foursquare that helps users explore Aggieland locations using smart phones (foursquare.com/tamu). Users check in to earn "badges" and compete to be a location's "mayor." Also, Facebook recently added Places, a location-based service that lets users' friends know where they are (facebook.com/places).



Fun? Yes! Problems? Maybe.

Privacy and security are concerns with any application that broadcasts a person's physical location. With interconnectivity with Facebook and Twitter, data from location-based apps could easily become more public than you intended.

Using a location-based service is optional. These apps provide many privacy settings that help you control who can see your check-ins. Be sure you know how to use these settings before starting:

Foursquare privacy FAQ:

support.foursquare.com/forums/191152-privacy

Facebook Places privacy settings video:

www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10150265360030484




Mobile Device Theft

Protect Your Data

Have you ever had that feeling? Patting your pockets or sorting through your purse...where is my phone? What if you left it somewhere or someone stole it? Would you lose items stored only on your phone? Could someone use information on your phone to access your accounts and steal from you?

10 to 15 percent of all PDAs and mobile phones are lost by their owners, making loss or theft the biggest security threat for your mobile device.



10%-15% of all mobile phones are lost

http://www.pvoworld.com/businesscenter/article/141388/how_to_stop_laptop_theft.html

Losing a mobile device is always a hassle, but by taking a few steps now, you can protect yourself if it ever happens to you:

- 1. Password protect your device.** This is your first line of defense when a stranger finds your lost phone or PDA.
- 2. Avoid storing confidential information.** Passwords and confidential information become a liability when your phone is lost or stolen. All university-owned confidential information must be encrypted if stored on a mobile device.
- 3. Backup your device regularly.** Make sure a mobile device is not the only location you store any information or file.
- 4. Set up remote wipe.** When you lose a device, remote "wipe" allows you to erase all of the information on your phone. Many devices require some setup to use this feature, such as Apple's Find My iPhone app (www.apple.com/iphone/find-my-iphone-setup) or Lookout Mobile Security for Android, Blackberry and Windows Mobile (www.mylookout.com).

Accessing options for password protection, backups and remote erase/wipe is a different process for each mobile device type. Visit url.tamu.edu/mobilesecurity for information on setting up these features for your mobile device.

Featured Service

Stay Safe with Code Maroon

Make sure you know when there is an emergency on campus. Sign up to receive Code Maroon text message alerts at codemaroon.tamu.edu.



DAS

What I'm talkin' about!

Aggies who love their smart phones do not need to go 'wireless hungry' at Texas A&M thanks to the Distributed Antenna System (DAS). Instead of large cell towers, this innovative technology uses micro-antennas mounted on or in buildings. DAS provides better coverage and added capacity in areas of high cell usage such as residence halls and sports facilities.

AT&T and Verizon have signed agreements to build distributed antenna systems at Texas A&M. The distributed antenna system is expanding and customers of the participating carriers can expect continued improvements in mobile service on campus.

Read more at url.tamu.edu/das.

Employee Cell Phone Discounts!

Texas A&M employees can receive vendor discounts for personal cell phone plans. Visit url.tamu.edu/celldiscount to see what your vendor has to offer.





Useful **Mobile Campus Services**

TAMULink

Campus wireless for mobile devices

tamulink.tamu.edu

TAMU Email Mobile

Campus email, calendar

email.tamu.edu

TAMUmobile

Class schedules, maps, computer lab hours

m.tamu.edu

Code Maroon

Emergency notifications

codemaroon.tamu.edu

Library Mobile Resources

Search databases, read books online

mobile.library.tamu.edu

Verrus Mobile Payment

Pay by phone for parking spaces

transport.tamu.edu

iTunes U

Texas A&M podcasts and presentations

itunes.tamu.edu

NPR app

Listen to KAMU anywhere

npr.org/mobile



Txt Speak **Decoded**

B2W	Back to Work
BBL	Be Back Later
BRB	Be Right Back
FWIW	For What It's Worth
IDK	I Don't Know
<3	Love
IRL	In Real Life
IMHO	In My Humble Opinion
JK (J/K)	Just Kidding
L8R	Later
LOL	Laughing Out Loud
NP	No Problem
OMG	Oh My Gosh
ORLY	Oh Really?
OTL	Out To Lunch
PSOS	Parent Standing Over Shoulder
PUKS	Pick Up Kids
ROTFL	Rolling On The Floor Laughing
TMI	Too Much Information
TTYL	Talk To You Later
ZZZZ	Sleeping (or bored)

Geek Speak **Quiz**

Check your answer at tamulink.tamu.edu.

The acronym, **WPA**, means:

- a) Wi-Fi Protected Access
- b) Windows Processor Application
- c) Web Production Assessment