



# Cellphone Safety

Your mobile device can be used against you

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**W**eighing less than 5 ounces, Apple's iPhone 7 knows whom you call and who calls you. It knows the content of your text messages and emails. It

knows your banking passwords, the names of your friends and the date of your next doctor's appointment. And if you've ever taken an explicit selfie, it even knows what you look like naked. "Your cellphone is

the most intimate thing in your life," says security expert Bruce Schneier, author of *Data and Goliath: The Hidden Battles to Collect Your Data and Control Your World*. "It knows more about you than your significant >

other does.”

If you're lucky and diligent, there's a good chance your cellphone won't ever be hacked. Unfortunately, if it does happen, you might

not immediately recognize the breach. To minimize the damage if your data is compromised, USA TODAY technology expert Marc Saltzman

suggests you “always make backups of your phone by connecting (it) to the computer or opting for ‘cloud’ backup.” If you realize your phone has been hacked,

“change your passwords immediately.” Check credit card and bank statements for suspicious activities and take action if any are found. ■

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– Bruce Schneier, security expert and author

## Fight Hack

Tips to mitigate security risks:

### SECURE YOUR SIGNAL



Experts suggest you protect your smartphone just as you do your laptop. Avoid using public Wi-Fi signals that leave you vulnerable to hackers. “You can read news or stream music ... on a public Wi-Fi connection, but try to avoid doing online banking (or) shopping,” tech expert Marc Saltzman says.

### PROCEED WITH CAUTION



Think twice before clicking on links included in emails and text messages, and “stick with well-known and reputable app makers,” says Saltzman. “Don't be the first to download a new app; read comments from previous (users first).” Be suspicious of phishing schemes. Your bank, Internet service provider or favorite store won't ask you for personal data via text, email or phone call.

### UPDATE OFTEN



Many smartphones prompt you when operating system updates are available. While the process may commandeer your device momentarily, experts say this is for your own good. “Engineers always patch vulnerabilities or add new features to keep you safe,” Saltzman says. These updates will help keep hackers away from your private information.