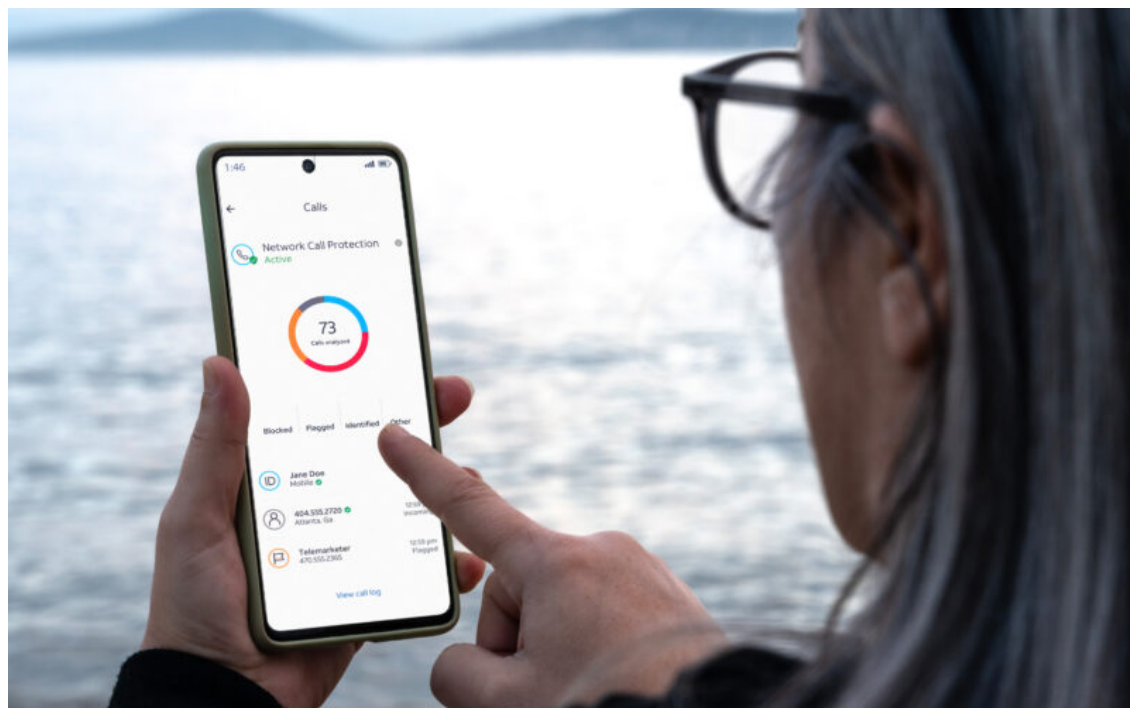




# 4 Tips for Improving Your Phone Security

APRIL 3, 2023



There's a common question many smart phone owners find themselves asking: "How can I improve my phone's security?" Phone security is an important issue that can affect every user whether their phone is filled with sensitive information or not. Nobody wants to be the victim of a malicious hacker, and everyone wants to make sure they keep their sensitive information out of the wrong hands. Check out some of our tips to help you increase privacy and security on your smartphone.

## Tip #1: Keep your software updated

Sometimes a software update notification will pop up at the most inopportune time—don't they know you're in the middle of a very important group chat?! But those notifications can be important, because some of those updates may improve your cell phone security.

Software updates can include bug fixes, vulnerability patches, and other changes that can affect your security and privacy. Bugs and vulnerabilities can make it easier for hackers to sneak their way on to your device or install malware that can compromise your smart phone. If your phone gives you the option to enable automatic updates, do it. By enabling automatic updates, you ensure that you get important software patches as soon as they're available. You may also have the option to set your updates to happen in the middle of the night (or whenever you designate) without interrupting your screen time.

## Tip #2: Set a strong password or PIN

Security for phones has been upgraded through a variety of unique options for unlocking your phone for use. Depending on what kind of phone you have, you may have the option to lock your phone using your fingerprint or your face. While this ensures nobody can open your phone without your face or fingerprint, there's no guarantee that someone couldn't still use your face or fingerprint to unlock your phone without your permission. Consider disabling fingerprint or face login if you have it and opt instead for a strong PIN code or password to unlock your phone—especially if you have sensitive information.

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## Tip #3: Turn off Bluetooth and WiFi when you're not using it

This one is especially important if you're in public spaces. If you leave your Bluetooth and WiFi access on, it may make it easier for hackers to connect to your device and gain access to files and information. One way this can happen is a hacker can pretend to be a legitimate device that makes a connection request to your device. Once you grant access, the hacker can exploit security holes in other programs and apps to steal your information or get sensitive files.

## Tip #4: Download a protection app

To further advance your protection, you may want to download a consumer protection app that can offer a variety of safeguards. For example, there's the free AT&T ActiveArmor mobile security app, which is available exclusively for AT&T wireless customers. When you activate ActiveArmor on your phone, you can block spam calls[1], manage and block unknown callers, get notified about company data breaches, and more.

With ActiveArmor advanced mobile security, you can be alerted when your personal information has been found on the dark web and prevented from clicking on malicious websites links. ActiveArmor advanced is an included benefit with our best unlimited rate plans and \$3.99/month for all other wireless plans. Learn more about AT&T ActiveArmor [here](#) or [download AT&T ActiveArmor today](#).

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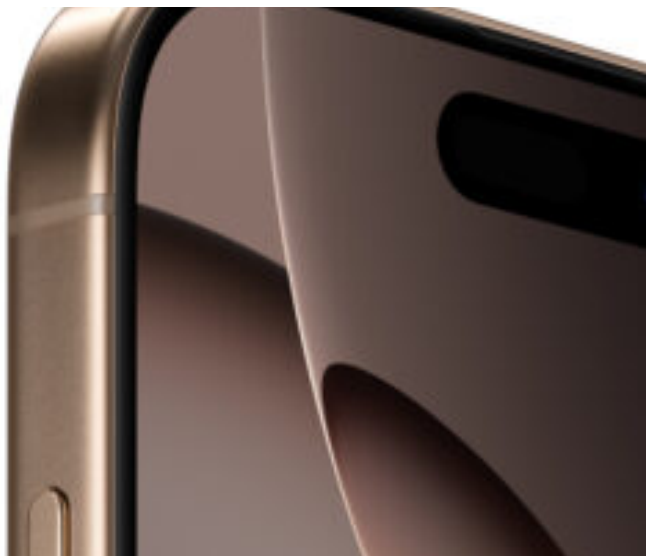
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[1] May inadvertently block wanted calls; settings can be adjusted in the app.



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