

# Safe and secure Wi-Fi



Indoors or out and about.

Internet Safety  
Starts with **you.**



If you're sending or receiving confidential or personal communications online, or doing banking or other private transactions – it's essential that the Wi-Fi you're using is secure in order to avoid eavesdropping by other people. This is equally important for personal and work use.

In the workplace, your IT department should have ensured that the Wi-Fi networks are secure. But away from the workplace – at home, other premises or out and about – it's down to you to make sure that Wi-Fi is secure before using it, or finding an alternative way to hook up to the internet.



## Top tips for secure Wi-Fi use

### At home

- At home, ensure your Wi-Fi router is secured to WPA2, password-protected, and that you don't reveal your password to others or keep it written down in an unsafe place.
- When you set up a new Wi-Fi router, change the default admin username and password and keep them to yourself.

### Out and about

- Never use unsecured public Wi-Fi networks or hotspots for confidential communications or transactions.
- Assume that no public Wi-Fi network is secure – even if you need a password from the premises. Instead, use 3G or 4G, even if it's a slower connection.
- If you use a broadband dongle, use a strong password, keep it secure and keep the dongle about your person at all times.

You can use a work VPN (Virtual Private Network) safely even when the Wi-Fi is not secure.

**For more information on safe use of email, please visit [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org), click 'Protecting Your Computer' and select 'Wireless Networks & Hotspots'**

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# Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by a number of government departments, law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.

Our advice is free, authoritative, informative, impartial and easy to follow.

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[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

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