

Using Public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi is available just about everywhere, from the local coffee shop to the hotels and airports you visit while traveling. Wi-Fi has made our lives a little easier, but it also poses security risks to the personal information available on our laptops and smartphones. Here is a helpful list of dos and don'ts you should follow if you plan to use public Wi-Fi.

Types of Public Wi-Fi

There are basically two kinds of public Wi-Fi networks: <u>Secured and</u> Unsecured.

An unsecured network can be connected to within range and without any type of security feature like a password or login. Conversely, a secured network requires a user to agree to legal terms, register an account, or type in a password before connecting to the network. It may also require a fee or store purchase to gain access to the password or network.

Regardless of the connection type, you should <u>always use public Wi-Fi</u> <u>with caution</u>. <u>Just to let you know your Active Seniors Wi-Fi is a private</u> Secured network. Now let's look at some dos and don'ts:

Always connect to secured public networks whenever possible. In the event that you're unable to connect to a secured network, using an unsecured network would be permissible if the connection requires some sort of login or registration and you are familiar with the hotspot.

Never access personal bank accounts, or sensitive personal data, on unsecured public networks. Even secured networks can sometimes be

risky. Use your best judgment if you must access these accounts on public Wi-Fi.

Never leave your laptop, tablet, or smartphone unattended in a public place. Even if you're working on a secure Wi-Fi network, that won't stop someone from taking your property or sneaking a peek at your device.

Never shop online when using public Wi-Fi. Sure, shopping doesn't seem like it involves sensitive data, but making purchases online requires personal information that could include bank account and retailer login credentials. Shopping isn't something you want to do on an unsecured Wi-Fi network.

Do turn off automatic connectivity. Most smartphones, laptops, and tablets have automatic connectivity settings, which allow you to seamlessly connect from one hotspot to the next. This is a convenient feature, but it can also connect your devices to networks you ordinarily would not use. Keep these settings turned off, especially when you're traveling to unfamiliar places.

Xfinity has millions of secured public Wi-Fi hotspots across the nation that you may be able to use while on the go. For users who don't have a Xfinity account, hourly, daily, weekly and monthly Xfinity WiFi On Demand Passes are available for purchase. The cost for a Xfinity WiFi On Demand Pass is the following: First hour Free; 1 Hour Pass is \$2.95; 2 Hour Pass is \$3.95; Day Pass is \$7.95; Weekly Pass is \$19.95; 30 Day Pass is \$54.95. The instructions for signing up are: Click Here You can call or visit an Xfinity store for more information. The Xfinity Wi-Fi on Demand customer service telephone number is 1-866-489-0919.

Happy and Safe Computing...

Your ASI Technology Team