



Cell Phone & PDA Security

Cell phones and PDAs (Blackberry, Palm, iPAQ, etc) provide an excellent way for Staff, Faculty and Students to keep up with university-related issues. These devices are no longer limited to voice calls, simple text messages, and Personal Information Management (e.g., phonebook, calendar, and notepad); rather, they possess capabilities and functionality similar to those of a desktop computer or laptop.

Due to their small size and use outside the office, handheld devices are more frequently lost or stolen. If they fall into the wrong hands, gaining access to the information they store can be relatively easy. Traditional security threats, including spam, viruses and worms, are also applicable to cell phones and PDAs.

Tips for using your handheld device securely:

- Enable password protection to access the device.
- Program your name and office phone number into the device. In the event your device is misplaced it may be returned.
- Avoid keeping sensitive information, such as personal and financial, on a handheld device.
- Never use a handheld device as the sole repository for important information. The device should be kept in synch with desktops or laptops (or backed up) so you do not lose information if the device is lost or stolen.
- Deny connection requests from unknown numbers or devices.
- Do not follow links sent in unsolicited email or text messages.
- If you do download a file from a web site, consider saving it to your desktop and manually scanning it for viruses before opening it.
- Only enable the features you use. Increased functions, features, and capabilities typically give rise to security issues.
- Contact your cellular carrier to report a lost or stolen cell phone and discontinue service. Some hand held devices have the capability to lock a device or erase its contents remotely through a built-in mechanism.

For more information on cell phone and PDA security please visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it>, email itsupport@ucalgary.ca or call the UCIT Support Centre at 220-5555.