Is Your Smartphone Secure?

Follow these four tips to put a lock on your information this summer and throughout the year:

1. Set a secure PIN or pattern lock—If your phone is lost or stolen, hard-to-guess passcodes (i.e., not 1234, 1111, etc.) deter most people from logging into your phone and accessing your information.

2. Back up your data and learn how to remote-wipe—Most providers offer a service to back up your contacts and other information, plus a remote wipe feature to erase data from your phone in case of theft.

3. Use secure networks whenever possible—Data can easily be stolen over unsecured Wi-Fi networks; use extra caution when accessing sites or services that require sensitive information (banking, shopping, social media, etc.)

4. Turn on encryption, if available—Some smartphones support encrypting data on your phone; ask your service provider for details on activating this feature.

For more info, bookmark the Computer Security Web page at it.northwestern.edu/security/