NUIIT Tech Talk: 
Stay Connected And Secure When Travelling 

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Agenda

• The Cheap Tablet Option
• Before You Leave
• Passwords
• Connecting While Away
• Other Tips
• Other Resources
• Questions
The Cheap Tablet Option

• Your needs:
  – Occasional use of web and/or email
  – Limited document editing
  – Some phone calls

• Consider buying a cheap tablet
  – My test tablet cost ~90 dollars
    • Android with encryption option along with software for VPN, email, web, and Office
    • I installed Skype for phone calls
The Cheap Tablet Option

• Benefits
  – Lost? Stolen? Who cares?
  – Limited or no personal data
  – Easy to wipe and reset to factory defaults

• Drawbacks
  – No keyboard
  – Small screen – typically 7 inches
Before You Leave

• What kind of trip is this?
  – You may have different needs on a business trip vs. a vacation

• Where are you going?
  – Are there any special regulations for international travel?

• How are you getting there?

• Decide what device(s) you need to take with you
Before You Leave

• Can you get a loaner?
  – If not, do you need to take all your data?
    • Don’t forget the cheap tablet option

• Make sure everything is up to date
  – Double check your anti-virus software

• Set an automatic reply on your University email account
  – Collaboration Services allows you to **specify a message for internal or external contacts**
Before You Leave

- **Back up** your data
- Notify important people or services
  - Don’t forget your bank or credit card companies
- How do you get cash?
  - Do you need a different currency?
  - Are you going to use your debit card?
Before You Leave

• Contact your cellular provider
  – Find out if service is available and what it will cost?
    • Does that also include data?
    • Does your phone support multiple SIM cards?
  – Perhaps you can use Skype or Google Voice as an alternative?
    • $5.00 goes a long way...
Passwords

• Assume your password will be compromised if you use it

• Consider this option:
  – Create new passwords before you leave
    • Only change the passwords on accounts you need to access while you are gone
  – Change them when you get back
Connecting While Away

• If possible choose cellular
  – Keep your phone off or in airplane mode to avoid roaming charges
• Consider purchasing a disposable phone or SIM card
• Always use SSL or HTTPS
• Use VPN or SSL/VPN when possible
Connecting While Away

• Outlook Web Access (OWA)
• Do not trust kiosk or Internet cafes  
  – This doesn’t mean don’t use them, just that you need to be aware  
• If possible avoid connections to your financial institution(s)
• Assume connections will be spotty
Other Tips

• Don’t forget your power cords or cables for charging
  – Do you need power adaptors?
• Use a surge protector
• Don’t travel with sensitive information
  – If you must, ensure it is encrypted
Other Tips

• Be aware of your surroundings
• Make copies of your travel documents
• Don’t forget your medical insurance card and drug history
  – Assess your insurance needs when traveling outside of the U.S.
• Don’t lose site of your devices
  – Use the safe in your hotel
  – Keep all your valuables in it
Other Tips

• Have a spare credit card
• Did you sign up for multi-factor authentication on a service such as Gmail? Make sure that will work where you are going.
• Facebook will ask you security questions if you log in from a sufficiently different location. You get locked out if you can’t answer them correctly.
Other Resources

- Staying Secure During Travel - NUIIT
- "Traveling Light in a Time of Digital Thievery" - NY Times
- Safety and Security for the Business Professional Traveling Abroad - FBI
- Travel Information from the U.S. State Department
- Travelers' Health Tips - CDC
- Northwestern University Travel Services
- NU’s Study/Travel Abroad Health Insurance
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Questions?