

Tip of the Month - August, 2012 **Its' Vacation Time Again!**

Getting ready to go on vacation can be very stressful, making sure you and your family are packed, that the animals will be watered and fed, that your mail, (newspapers etc. if home delivered) will be picked up daily, etc. are all things that you need to provide for. So once you are actually on vacation all you want to do is relax and enjoy the trip. To ensure that you have nothing to think, or worry about follow these ten steps and return home with your identity, and personal belongings still intact.

- 1. Use Secure Wi-Fi and https: Whenever Possible use Free Internet.** Cafes are available everywhere these days but it should be a password-protected computer to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the network. To take this a step further you can ask the venue if they have an encryption enabled for their wireless router to provide an extra layer of defense.
- 2. Consider Tracking of “Find Me” Apps for your Digital Devices.** Computers, Tablets, and smart phones are very popular target so ensure them with 21st century anti-theft protection. There are a variety of apps out there that will allow you to track and potentially recover your devices in the event of theft.
- 3. Consider traveling without your Laptop.** If you are thinking about packing your computer and bringing it on your trip, it might be wise to rethink that.
- 4. Monitor Your Financial Statements in Real Time.** Check your accounts online daily, which includes credit, debit, and savings. Tourists are often prominent targets for fraud therefore daily monitoring can help target and monitor suspicious activity. However following with tip number one you should always check on line with a secure internet connection.
- 5. Password Protect your Devices.** Your devices and the data they contain are more vulnerable when you are on the road or visiting an unfamiliar place. If you have sensitive information on your digital

devices such as medical records, password-protect or even encrypt sensitive files for further protection. If your devices are stolen, you'll have peace of mind knowing your data is safe.

- 6. Take Advantage of your In-Room Safe.** If you are staying in an establishment that doesn't offer a safe, carry your valuables with you, in a secure place.
- 7. Remember that Cameras are at Risk Also.** Some cameras come equipped with Wi-Fi and while traveling abroad can be exposed to thieves.
- 8. Don't Broadcast your Absence on Media.** Announcing when and where you will be going can increase the chance of you getting your information stolen or your house broken into. This threat is especially magnified if your social media accounts are public.
- 9. Log out of Public Computers.** If you head to the local internet café and log in to check your bank account online or send an email to your friends and family back home it is important to remember to sign out of your online accounts when you are done. Simply closing the window is not enough –some accounts may keep you logged in.
- 10. Check your Privacy Settings before Sharing Vacation Photos.** When you return home after a long vacation it may be tempting to immediately upload your photos, but take a minute before you do to check your privacy setting beforehand.

These are just a few easy ways to keep yourself protected while you are away. Follow these steps to ensure that you can just relax and not have to worry about anything while on vacation.

For more information on this and any other data protection concern you may have, please email us at dataprotection@bahamas.gov.bs or visit our website www.bahamas.gov.bs/dataprotection.

Remember “Privacy is the best Policy!”