What’s New?

It’s almost summer time! Hooray! Which means you’re probably getting ready to enjoy summer vacation somewhere on a beach in Michigan or somewhere much warmer out of state. Have you taken the time to consider some best practices for keeping your phone safe and secure though? What about keeping your credit card information safe while traveling?

Summer 2019: Smart Practices for Your Smartphone

Your Smartphone knows a lot about you. Losing it could be detrimental. Here are some tips to know when traveling with your devices.

1. **Enable Remote Lock/Locate/Wipe.** In the event you do lose your phone, be sure to set up the ability to remote wipe/lock the phone. How-To instructions can be found on the Android and Apple websites.

2. **Back up devices and data** before leaving.

3. **Turn on a passcode screen lock:** Use strong passwords whenever possible

4. **Invest in a Virtual Private Network (VPN).** It is not always safe to connect to Public Wi-Fi, but an investment in a VPN will encrypt and scramble the information you send from your device to help protect it if an attacker were to intercept it.

**Credit Card Traveling Checklist**

- **Pre-pay what you can before you leave home.** Ex. Hotels, excursions, transportation
- **Notify your credit card holder that you will be traveling:** You don’t want to be unable to use your card
- **Take advantage of the hotel safe:** Use cash for smaller purchases
- **Don’t carry cash and credit card together:** This way you’ll have one if you lose the other
- **Beware of Tampered ATMs:** Look out for unusual ATM card slots and cameras pointed towards the keypad.
- **Use Inside/Front-Facing pockets for valuables.**

If your credit card is lost or stolen…

*Act IMMEDIATELY.* Call the card company to freeze the card and report it missing. It is also advised to call the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your account if any new accounts are open with your name.

Please contact IT_Security_Team@grcc.edu with any questions or concerns