Protect, Respect Personal Data

Smart Use of Internet of Things

IoT and Your Personal Data

The Internet of Things ("IoT") is the network of physical objects embedded with electronics, sensors and software that enable them to exchange data with each other via the Internet. Typical examples of IoT devices include Internet protocol cameras (IP Cam), fitness bands and smart TVs.

IoT devices with different features and designs may collect various data about a user. They may even infer other information about the user through data analysis. Some devices may request a user to register for an account before using them and hence the collected data may well be the user's personal data.
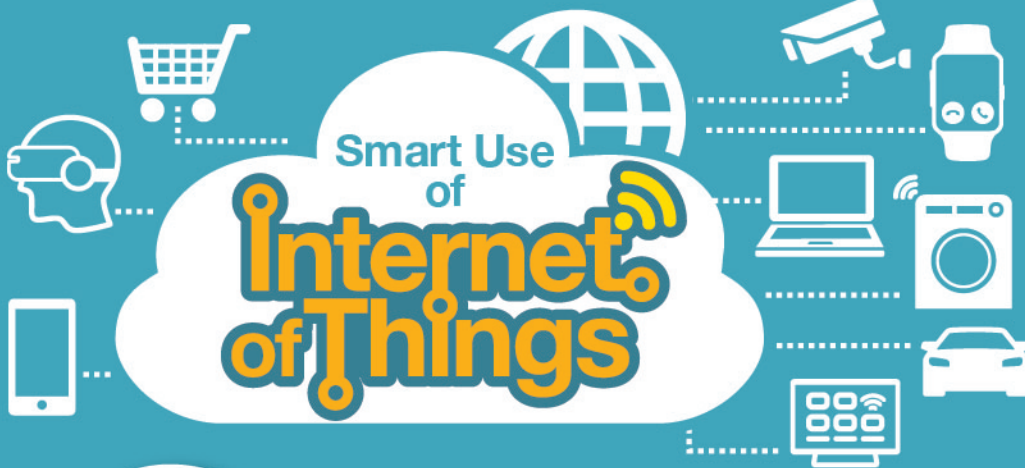
6 Tips | Data Protection in Your Hands

1 Read the Privacy Policy

Privacy Policy

Before making your purchase of IoT devices, read the privacy policy carefully to understand what information will be collected, why the collection is necessary and how the information will be used, disclosed and / or shared.

2 Use Separate User Accounts

Use a separate email address to register for each account of IoT devices so that information gathered from different devices cannot be integrated and analysed by data users or third parties easily. Avoid linking your IoT devices accounts with other private ones (such as your online banking account and social media account).

3 Examine the Privacy Settings

Settings
Privacy Settings
CLOSE

Examine and understand the privacy implications of default settings in an IoT device. If in doubt, start with not sharing or uploading information and change appropriate settings.

4 Set Strong Password

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Never use default username and password for your IoT devices or they can be guessed by others easily. Instead, you should set a complex password which does not comprise your personal data (such as name, date of birth etc.). Remember to change your password regularly.

5 Update Firmwares and Install Security Patches Timely

Vulnerability is often discovered in the built-in software (called firmware) of an IoT device. Update and patch the firmware of your IoT devices timely. Only download firmwares and security patches from trusted websites (such as the official product websites).

6 Purge the Personal Data Before Disposal / Resale

Delete

An IoT device may have stored your personal data. Before you dispose of or resell an IoT device, make sure you have deleted all user account information and other personal data stored in the device.

IoT