

QUICK TIPS

- 1 Think before you post! Whatever you post online can be copied and shared; thus it can be permanently available online.
- 2 Control which apps have access to the information on your phone. This includes locations services, contacts, calendar and photos, amongst others.
- 3 Respect others' privacy; ask before sharing photos of others.
- 4 Take the required precautions to limit any undesired App related purchases.
- 5 Children may be more vulnerable to the risks associated with owning and using a smart phone. Instill a sense of responsibility in your children by discussing the risks involved.

For further information call Helpline 179 or send an email to 179.appogg@gov.mt

RESPONSIBLE USE

PRIVACY Being constantly connected to the Internet offers great opportunities but it also presents a number of risks. Having an Internet connection, a photo and video camera and a GPS in your hands anywhere you go, makes it very easy to unintentionally reveal a lot of information about yourself and others. The GPS technology within your phone is used to record the date, time and location a photo is taken. This information is consequently revealed when the same photo is shared online. Remember that what you share online can be viewed by everyone, even strangers.

Internet connectivity, coupled with the GPS functionality of your mobile, allows you to reveal your current location via the "check-in" service offered by most Social Networking Sites (SNS) such as Facebook, Twitter and Foursquare, amongst others.



In order to safeguard your privacy, it is important to be aware of what other mobile functions or data the App is connecting to. Apart from the location based services, Facebook, for example, also asks to connect to the contact list on your phone in order to synchronise this information with the respective Facebook profiles. Furthermore, some apps seamlessly integrate amongst themselves. Thus, a picture taken on Instagram may be automatically uploaded onto your Facebook timeline if this is set accordingly.

EXPENSE Calls, SMSs and data usage are not all you can spend money on. It is of utmost importance to remember that even if apps are downloadable for free, some offer in-App purchases. These purchases might include the possibility of buying an ad-free version of the same App or a version of the App which offers more functions. Some in-App purchases also allow you to, for example, progress in a game. Your phone might end up in other people's hands. Take the necessary measures to control downloading or making in-App purchases on smart phones generally through the 'settings' function.

CONCLUSION

Knowing the functions of your smart phone will help you make full use of its potential in a safe manner. It is highly recommended that you read through the manual provided with your device and seek help through your respective service provider in case of any difficulties.

Make sure that you've thought about the necessary precautions, such as setting a pass code in order to prevent anyone tampering with your phone or accessing personal data.



DO YOU INTEND GIVING A SMART PHONE TO YOUR CHILDREN?

As explained, when used wisely, these functions can help you protect your children. However, if you intend to buy a smart phone for your children, it is important to remember that certain functions might also pose some dangers.

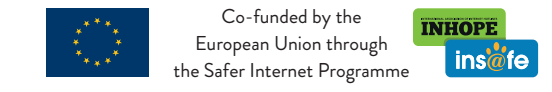
- One has to keep in mind that smart phones can connect to Wi-Fi hotspots available around the islands. Unfiltered access to the web brings about a number of risks, particularly in the hands of children. One of the major concerns is that adult supervision becomes very difficult.
- It is also worth noting that, because of various apps and internet connectivity, children can send SMSs, chat or video chat via their mobile phones even when they do not have any credit left.



- Although location based services may be useful for you to know the whereabouts of your children, strangers may also get access to this information via various platforms or apps children might install on their smart phones.
- Photos and videos taken by smart phones can easily be shared, sometimes unintentionally, via various online platforms. Quite often, when sharing such content, the associated information such as location and date are also shared.
- To avoid receiving any shockingly expensive bills, opt to deactivate in-App purchases or, set purchase limits, or, if you prefer, set your phone to ask for an 'App Store' password every time an attempt is made to make a purchase.

be SMART
ONLINE!

GOING ONLINE
GOING MOBILE
SAFELY



INTRODUCTION

The majority of mobiles on the market are smart phones. These mini-computers give users 24/7 access to the Internet and also offer other features which make life easier especially when on the move. Furthermore, if the smart phone does not contain all the functions that you need, you are highly likely to be able to download an application, more commonly known as an App, that would do exactly what you require.

Over and above the features offered by standard mobile phones, smart phones can offer additional features that can add to your safety and peace of mind. However, it is important to know the implications of these value-added features.



WHAT CAN SMART PHONES DO?

APART FROM ALLOWING PEOPLE TO MAKE CALLS AND SEND SMSs, SMART PHONES OFFER A HOST OF OTHER FEATURES THAT DISTINGUISH THEM FROM CONVENTIONAL MOBILE PHONES.

CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET

All service providers offer mobile data Internet. This technology allows you to connect to the Internet from practically anywhere. Such connections reach speeds fast enough to make it possible to engage in activities that are usually undertaken on much larger devices, such as laptops. Smart phones can also connect to any available free Wi-Fi hotspot without the need for a data connection.



LOCATION BASED SERVICES

These services utilise the Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver built into smart phones. Through this system your phone can receive a signal from one of the four GPS satellites and identifies the time and your exact location, anywhere in the World.

Unless you want everyone to know your whereabouts in real time, it is important to be aware of which apps have requested access to this information and it is up to you whether or not to accept such requests.



PHOTOS & VIDEOS

Nowadays most mobile phones offer the facility to take and capture high quality photos and videos. What is captured can be easily shared via Bluetooth or the Internet.

It is important to respect others' privacy. You should not take pictures of others and circulate them without their permission. Once a picture has been sent to friends through Bluetooth, or is shared online, you lose control of it. It may be shared further beyond your network of friends. The same principle applies to posting and sharing your own pictures online.



APP STORES & PURCHASES

When connected to the Internet, Apps can be downloaded onto your smart phone. These Apps enhance the existing functionality of your mobile.

Apps are downloadable from the following online stores which can be accessed directly from your smart phone: **App Store** for iOS devices, **Google Play** for Android devices, **Apps+Games Store** for Windows devices, and **Blackberry World** on the Blackberry operating system.

