Security :: Simple Ways to Lock Your Smartphone

If you leave your smartphone unattended for a while – or worse, if it's lost or stolen - you don't want to make it easy for someone to go through the contents. Setting your smartphone lock means that a PIN or password is required for access after an inactive period. This is the single easiest way to thwart the efforts of would-be thieves to steal your personal information through opportunistic unauthorized access.

The device-specific steps listed below may vary somewhat between OS versions. You can usually lock your smartphone by using a screensaver or tweaking the security settings. If you can't find how to do this on your device, contact the manufacturer. Here are a few examples:

- **Android:** Go to **Settings > Location & security > Set up screen lock**. The timeout delay is configured separately, under **Settings > Display**. Android also offers a connect-the-dots swipe pattern you can use in lieu of a PIN or password, but it might leave tell tale smudges on your screen.
- **BlackBerry:** Go to **Options > Security Options > General Settings > Password**
- **iPhone:** Go to **Settings > General > Passcode lock**
- **Windows Phone 7:** Go to **Settings > Lock & Wallpaper**

Check out some additional ways to keep your mobile device and data secure. [1]

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