

Public WiFi Security and the Case for VPNs

WiFi SECURITY RISKS: BY THE NUMBERS

WiFi hotspots are driving the mobile Internet explosion. Worldwide, WiFi hotspots reached **4.2 million in 2013** and will grow to reach 7.1 million in 2015.

ABI RESEARCH MAY 2014



66% of young adults ages 18-26 have connected to an open WiFi hotspot in the past month.

RAYTHEON OCTOBER 2013



Despite knowing that data transmitted over open WiFi is not protected, **users are still taking risks.**

39% of users have accessed sensitive information using free public WiFi.

NIELSEN/HARRIS POLL CONDUCTED FOR PRIVATE WIFI MARCH 2014



Identity fraud is a growing threat to mobile users. There were a total of **13.1 million** identity fraud victims in 2013 – one every two seconds.

JAVELIN STRATEGY & RESEARCH IDENTITY FRAUD REPORT 2014

43% of enterprise employees have accessed sensitive corporate data on their personal device while on an unsecured public WiFi network.

CENTRIFY APRIL 2014

34% of users said they take **no special measures** to protect online activity when using hotspots.

KASPERSKY SURVEY OCTOBER 2013



Tablet owners were **80%** **more likely than all other consumers** to become victims of identity fraud in 2012.

JAVELIN STRATEGY & RESEARCH IDENTITY FRAUD REPORT 2013



95.6% of train, bus or subway commuters in the U.S. put company data at risk over free public WiFi.

GFI SOFTWARE SURVEY SEPTEMBER 2013

31% of federal workers report using public WiFi, putting themselves and their agencies at risk.

MOBILE WORK EXCHANGE AND CISCO SURVEY JANUARY 2014



WHAT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SAY

Open WiFi is a major security problem. According to OnGuardOnline.gov, you should never *“assume a WiFi hotspot is secure.”*

The FBI recommends VPNs for securing mobile devices at WiFi hotspots:

“When using public WiFi, limit using e-mail, social networking, shopping, and banking, unless you have a secure Virtual Private Network, or VPN.”

So do the Federal Trade Commission, Department of Justice, and Department of Homeland Security:

“Protect your information when using public WiFi...if you regularly access online accounts through WiFi hotspots, use a virtual private network (VPN). VPNs encrypt traffic between your computer and the Internet, even on unsecured networks. You can get a personal VPN account from a VPN service provider.”



If you need any additional assistance, please contact:
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