

## **Get Safe Online With Safe Connected Homes - 05.05.18**

These days it's not a matter of what you can connect to the internet, but what you can't. What was considered futuristic ten years ago is now commonplace technology in many homes and offices.

Lighting, heating, security systems, audio systems... even refrigerators and your children's toys can all be monitored and controlled remotely via apps on your mobile device, whilst smart TVs are also connected via your Wi-Fi.

This means that they all transmit data, which could be of use to criminals in disabling your intruder alarm, infecting your Wi-Fi network with malware, or obtaining sensitive data from the apps associated with anything from your security system to your kid's smart tablets and dolls.

But please don't panic: there are some simple, practical steps you can take to ensure that everything's connected safely.

### **A Few Simple Steps To Protect Your Connected Homes**

- For devices for which you need a password (as well as your Wi-Fi password) to connect, replace factory-set passwords with secure ones you create yourself. This is because a lot of default administrator passwords are common to every device shipped, and potentially insecure. If in doubt, check manufacturers' instructions on how to change passwords.
- Don't use the same password for more than one connected device, nor share passwords with those you already use for other online accounts.
- Make sure your Wi-Fi network is secure, see our advice page on Wireless Networks & Hotspots at [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)
- Make sure that all your computers and mobile devices are fitted with updated internet security software /app, and also that access to these devices is protected with a PIN or passcode.
- Check the apps associated with your connected devices, and install updates as soon as prompted.
- If you can, disable remote-management access and other powerful network tools if they won't be used.

- Consider whether buying well-known, reputable brands means that more care has probably been taken in securing the products - and you and your family's security.

For everything you need to know about securing your connected home please visit:

[www.getsafeonline.org/connectedhome](http://www.getsafeonline.org/connectedhome)

To contact Sussex Neighbourhood Watch please E-

mail [enquiries@sussexnwfed.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sussexnwfed.org.uk) or visit [www.sussexnwfed.org.uk](http://www.sussexnwfed.org.uk).