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Connected Vehicle Security Best Practices

Background & Introduction

The following document is intended to assist your business in taking the necessary steps needed to utilize the best security practices if you have a vehicle that connects to the Internet or devices for services like in-car Wi-Fi, OnStar, Bluetooth speakerphone, etc…

The document discusses the most basic security practices that **EVERYONE** should be following as a baseline. If you feel you fall into a more complex category it is highly recommended that you contact your IT service provider for further guidance and assistance.

This is not a comprehensive list of all possible security procedures, as many advanced IT security needs depend on the nature of your business and whether or not your business has industry compliance requirements

- **Be proactive in your security precautions** to ensure you don't potentially fall victim to a security attach; always update your software systems as instructed by your automobile manufacturer (just like you do for your cellphone, tablet or laptop) to ensure you have the latest security systems in your vehicle.

- **Go to reputable dealers and repair shops**; ask questions and do research about their training and certifications with regard to working on connected vehicle technologies. This is no longer a job for the 'back-yard mechanic' as these are highly complex technology systems.

- **Get informed about the technologies in your vehicle**, and make sure you find resources to keep you informed of potential security breaches. If your vehicle manufacturer or dealer has a newsletter, sign up for it; monitor the news media and pay particular attention to stories related to connected vehicles and then determine if the situation described will apply to you. Know in advance who you should call at your dealer, manufacturer, or repair shop to check on such issues.

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- **Protect your personal information, vehicle information and passwords** from getting into the wrong hands. With just a little bit of information a determined hacker can gain access to your vehicle, and thru your vehicle to everything else you've ever connected to it.

- **Use tested and verified after-market devices**; check with your vehicle manufacturer to ensure that they have approved the use of these devices and that they are compatible with the technology in their vehicles and will not result in security breaches.

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