

Protect your BlackBerry

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Most Blackberrys contain important and confidential information that we do not want to get in the wrong hands.

This can be avoided — the BlackBerry is a very secure device. Here are three basic security tips.

Set a password.

Open the Options menu then scroll down to and click the word Password. On the next screen, select the Password field and then enable the option via the corresponding pop-up box.

From there, hit your BlackBerry's escape key, which is to the right of the trackball or trackpad, save your changes when prompted and then enter your new password.

After typing it once you will be prompted to confirm your selection. Verify the password by typing it again and your BlackBerry will be properly locked down.

Just type your password again to unlock the device.

If a password is typed incorrectly 10 consecutive times, all of the information on the device is automatically deleted. This is a security feature.

Protect your content.

You can encrypt data stored on your device and/or your microSD media card. Doing so “scrambles” the information so it cannot be transferred and interpreted if your device is taken.

You can enable this by selecting Options then Security Options then General Settings on most BlackBerry devices.

Wipe it out.

If you are giving away or replacing your BlackBerry, clear the content first — this is called wiping. You erase all of the data stored and returning the device to its factory default state.

First, back up any information you don't want to lose. Wiping the device is simple and there are a few ways to do it.

If you enter an incorrect password into your BlackBerry 10 consecutive times, the BlackBerry by default will wipe itself.

You will be prompted to type the word "blackberry" to confirm the wipe.

To perform a manual wipe of your entire BlackBerry, go to Options then Security Options then General Settings.

Click the trackwheel/trackball on the Password field then select Wipe Handheld.

You will be prompted to enter "blackberry" to confirm the system wipe.

If you lose your BlackBerry or if it is stolen, contact your carrier immediately.

Have them deactivate your SIM card and ask them to have the PIN number registered as lost or stolen.

If your BlackBerry is reported stolen and the PIN is listed as stolen, the culprit can change the SIM card and use the device as a phone but the data services will be blocked. Also report a lost or stolen BlackBerry to the police.

If you have a corporate BlackBerry, contact your IT staff. They should be able to remotely enable security features and/or wipe your smartphone.