

Smartphone and Tablet Security: What You Need to Know

by Henriette Ludwig

How secure or vulnerable are your Iphone and e-messages? Alexis FitzGerald, MSc in Information Security, gave a brief and comprehensive overview of security issues and solutions for smartphones and tablets at a BERNnet apero evening on March 2, 2012.

The three main problems are:

- * loss or theft
- * unintentional data disclosure, for example from rogue apps
- * attacks on decomissioned smartphones

In addition, phishing, spyware and surveillance attacks can also cause problems.

Simple, basic solutions include just being careful, good password practices (password lock, different passwords etc.), verifying apps before downloading, installing security protection programs, and using "Faraday bags" to shield devices from electronic hackers. Problems can multiply when you have employees in a company using such devices which could contain sensitive company information.

Around 30 AWC members and guests attended this event hosted by BERNnet, the Bern English Resource Network, whose members presented their services after the talk. The evening ended with a delightful apero of various culinary tidbits from all over the globe (which were so tasty that some attendees felt BERNnet might do well doing catering, too!)

Do take advantage of the wide range of English-language services offered by BERNnet (www.bernetwork.ch) and also tell your Swiss business friends about them!