BANK OF AMERICA

Be cyber secure: IoT

Thermostats, doorbells and refrigerators with internet connectivity are all part of a network known as the Internet of Things (IoT). Any device connected to the internet is a potential target for cyber threats.

Once a device is compromised, criminals may:

- **Take advantage of the permissions you give your device** to make online purchases in your name, listen to your conversations using a device microphone or collect data about your device usage.
- **Compromise** other devices connected to your network.
- **Access or deactivate your networks or devices** (such as home alarms) in order to protect your personal information.
- **Launch attacks** on other connected endpoints.

Here are some tips that can help protect you from potential IoT cyber incidents or prevent you from taking action that could be costly:

- **Create strong, unique passwords** of at least eight characters for each of your accounts. If you reuse passwords, a criminal who discovers one of them could use it to access another device or account.
- **Change the manufacturer's default settings.** Connected devices often come with default usernames and passwords that are published on internet. Change them to something unique as soon as you can.
- **Update your devices and applications regularly.** If a connected device or its application has an auto-update feature, turn it on. This often requires only a few clicks to set up.
- **Check your privacy settings.** You may be sharing information through your device or its applications. Review your privacy settings to see if you are unintentionally sending information to social media accounts, for example.
- **Turn encryption on.** Some devices let you use encrypted communications, but the setting isn't always turned on by default.
- **Make your home network more secure.** Turn off any internet-enabled features on your device when it is not in use. This will limit its exposure to online threats.
- **Report** the incident to local law enforcement immediately and contact your bank.

Visit www.bankofamerica.com/security to learn how to help protect yourself and those closest to you.