



EIGHT TIPS FOR SAFE ONLINE CONFERENCING

With the massive influx of **work-from-home employees** during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, cyberthieves are **exploiting COVID-19 themes in their scams**, and cyberattacks are happening at a rapid pace. Video conferencing is now a fast-growing hacker target, with **traffic increasing 400% in only one month** as employees focus on staying connected and productive. In April 2020, **over 500,000 Zoom account credentials were found for sale on the Dark Web**. The information available for purchase included the user's email address, password, personal meeting URL, and their **Zoom Host Key** — all being sold for less than a penny each.

What You Need to Know

Here's how to not only keep your online conferences secure, but how to further protect your personal and business information:

1. Password Protect Your Meeting

When creating your meetings, require passwords for an added layer of security. **With a meeting password**, unwanted users and **"Zoombombers"** will not be able to join your call.

2. Check for Updates

Applications are always fixing security patches through system updates. Putting off software updates leaves your devices and private files exposed to hackers, malware and viruses.

3. Implement a Waiting Room

The **waiting room** option allows the host to filter who can join the meeting and prevents participants from interacting with one another before the session begins. You can also deter others from entering the meeting before you by turning off the **"Join Before Host"** feature.

4. Avoid Over-Sharing Your Personal ID

A **Personal Meeting ID** and link is a virtual room that is reserved for you. Instead of sharing this ID and link for all your meetings, update settings to randomly generate an ID for new sessions. Do not publicly share your personal ID to ward off uninvited guests.

5. Don't Click on Link; Manually Enter Your Meeting ID

If you are sent an unexpected meeting invitation, check first with the host before joining. Join calls by going to the official website or app and entering your meeting ID. Cybercriminals can hide **malicious links** within meeting invitations. And, some authentic meeting invitation links been identified as **leaking user information** when clicked.

6. Secure Screen-Sharing and Chat Features

If you intend on being the only participant sharing your screen, update settings to **disable other users from screen-sharing**. This can protect your meeting from unsought screen-shares. By **turning off the chat**, malicious links and files can't be sent to all participants.

7. Protect Your Session

Once all participants in your meeting have logged in, some conferencing apps allow you to **"Lock" your meeting** so no other users can join. This is a good way to keep intruders from discovering your meeting and eavesdropping or being disruptive.

8. Know Your Privacy Settings

Double check your camera and microphone settings, as both may be set to automatically turn on when conferencing. Avoid sharing private information, as you may not be sure of each participant's environment and the **privacy policies of the app** itself.

If you think you are a victim of identity theft, don't hesitate to reach out to our team here at IdentityForce to learn more about how we can help protect all that you've built.

ABOUT SONTIQ

Sontiq, headquartered in Nottingham, MD, is a high-tech security and identity protection company arming businesses and consumers with award-winning products built to protect what matters most. Sontiq's brands, **EZShield** and **IdentityForce**, provide a full range of identity monitoring, restoration, and response products and services that empower customers to be less vulnerable to the financial and emotional consequences of identity theft and cybercrimes. Learn more at www.sontiq.com or engage with us on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, **LinkedIn**, or **YouTube**.



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