



How to Increase Your iPhone Security in 6 Simple Steps

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When I am not crunching data and analyzing technical issues in my work as a trial lawyer, I also supervise our firm's IT department and occasionally share tech tips with my firm colleagues. Some of these may also be helpful to other lawyers, so I thought I should share one of them today.

In the wake of the wide publicity regarding iPhone security and the efforts by the federal government to hack into the phone used by one of the San Bernardino terrorists, the public is increasingly aware of the potential security vulnerabilities of their iPhones, iPads and other mobile devices. However, many users still use only the simple four-digit passcode to protect the data on their devices.

The truth is, that's really not good enough.

Given the type of information lawyers frequently have on their handhelds, I strongly urge folks to at least increase their passcode to six numeric digits. This raises the number of potential passcode combinations from 10,000 to one million. [One website](#) estimates a brute force attack on a phone with 10,000 combinations would only take 4.5 days to hack (using an estimated average of 40 seconds per try) but roughly 458 days to crack a phone using a six-digit passcode.

1. Go to Settings, then Touch ID & Passcode on your device.
2. Enter your current passcode.
3. Choose Change Passcode.
4. Enter your old passcode again.
5. Then enter a six-digit new passcode using the numeric keypad on the screen and then select Next in the top right corner.
6. Verify your new six-digit passcode by re-entering it a second time and select Done in the top right corner.

That's it.

Note, many folks, including myself, choose to use a longer, more complex alphanumeric passcode. Steps for this can be found here: <http://goo.gl/xEjgL0>

In today's society, security should always be important for lawyers who use and depend on handheld devices that can easily be lost, misplaced or stolen. Good luck.