Cyber Security Alert

Apple IOS 17.3

Police Scotland Cybercrime Harm Prevention Team.
24.01.2024

IOS 17.3

Apple has launched a security update - "Stolen Device Protection" – as an additional layer of security.

We all keep a vast amount of personal and business data on our devices and, for those who use Apple products, this new security feature intends to keep criminals out by adding an additional layer of security for Apple users to access their information.

iPhone users currently access their stored information and make major changes to their phone's settings with just a passcode – the typically four or six digit number used to perform a wide array of actions from unlocking a device to viewing credit card information to seeing every single stored password.

With the Stolen Device Protection feature enabled, users are provided with additional protection even if a criminal manages to obtain their passcode.

Instead of relying on the passcode, users with the new feature will now be asked to enter biometric data via Face ID (face scan) or Touch ID (fingerprint) to access data or make changes.

<u>You can activate "Stolen Device Protection" by updating your iPhone and scrolling down to Face ID & Passcode in your settings. You will be prompted to type in your passcode, and then you can scroll down to Stolen Device Protection and turn it on.</u>

To use Stolen Device Protection, you must have 2 step verification (2SV) along with "Find My" enabled for your Apple ID account.

For more sensitive actions such as changing an Apple ID password, adding or removing face or fingerprint scanning, turning off Find My or turning off the stolen device protection itself, users will be asked for biometric data and then wait through an hour-long security delay before re-entering biometric data to make the changes.
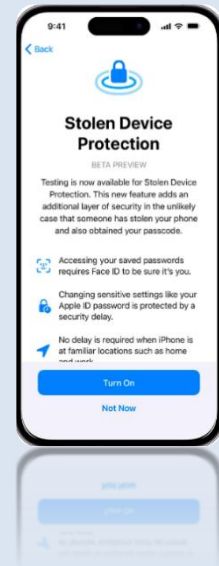
The extra security measures are only enacted when a user is away from a familiar location like work or home and locations are automatically learned and stored by the device.

These issues are addressed by updating devices to iOS 17.3 and Apple users are encouraged to apply this update immediately.

We have also taken the opportunity an include the link to guidance from our colleagues at the NCSC Install the latest software and app updates - NCSC.GOV.UK

If you have been a victim of crime, and it is not an ongoing emergency, you can report this to Police Scotland on 101.

This alert was sent out for your information by
Police Scotland Cybercrime Harm Prevention Team -
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