

## THINKING

Quick insights for protecting yourself and your company from online threats.

## spotlight

## **APPLICATIONS**

Apps can turn an ordinary device into a versatile machine. Protect yours by being cautious with every download.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

• Steer clear of file sharing sites and stick to resources like Android, Apple or Google stores where they typically check for viruses and other threats. Even then, stick to apps that get good ratings and have a significant number of downloads.

Malicious apps can create problems that can put you and your data at risk.

The best way to protect yourself is to avoid downloading infected apps in the first place. These tips will help you.

- Free apps can be a smokescreen for hidden downloads that use valuable storage space or worse. If you're unsure, an online search can help you learn more about the app in question.
- Bundled apps often include troublesome add-ons or plug-ins. These work in the background and can remain even if the main app is removed.
- Before you download an app, think about what it's asking for in return. Read the fine print so you know what you're agreeing to.
- Adding a trusted anti-malware program will protect you from malicious apps and other threats. Keeping your device updated will also help address security issues.
- Always check with your manager or IT department before downloading any app on a work-related device. Most companies have strict policies in place to protect you and the network from harmful downloads.