DIGITAL SECURITY TIPS FOR PROTESTORS

A GUIDE FROM THE ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION

Democracy depends on your right to peaceably assemble, but protesters may be subject to search or arrest, have their movements and associations mapped, or otherwise become targets of surveillance and repression. Here are a few tips that can help keep protesters and their data safe.

1. Use full-disk encryption on your device, protected by a strong password: 8-12 random characters that are easy to remember but hard for others to guess to unlock your device. Even better, use a strong passphrase: a string of random words that are also easy to remember (like with a mnemonic) but hard for others to guess.

2. Remove fingerprint unlock on your device before attending the protest. Fingerprint unlock affords less protection than password unlock, and you can always add it back afterward.

3. Many phones can take photos and videos without an unlock. This helps to quickly capture the moment if you're using a strong unlock password/passphrase.

4. Install Signal. It's an app available for both iOS and Android that protects communication between you and your friends with strong encryption. This only works if your friends have it, too, so encourage them to install it! Note: If government officials gain access to your unlocked phone, they will see Signal messages in plain text within the app. However, Signal enables you to have messages disappear after you read them from a particular person.

5. Use a prepaid, disposable phone. If you're really concerned about the data stored on your device, don't bring it at all and pick up a prepaid mobile phone. Keep in mind that if you carry both your regular device and a prepaid one with you, the location of these devices can be correlated as a way to compromise your anonymity.

6. Back up your data regularly and store that backup in a safe place. It can save you a headache later on if your device gets seized or lost.

7. Consider biking or walking to the protest. Often your driving can be tracked by Automated License Plate Readers. Use alternative means of transportation if you prefer that your movements and associations remain private.

8. Enable airplane mode. Airplane mode ensures that your device will not be transmitting for the duration of your time at the protest, and prevents your location from being tracked. Plan accordingly if airplane mode is enabled: You may want to select a nearby meet-up spot where you and your friends can rendezvous if you get separated.

9. Organizers: Consider alternatives to Facebook and Twitter. Convenience can sometimes come at the cost of privacy. Even private events or messages on social media may be viewable by law enforcement.

AFTER YOUR PROTEST:
If you had problems:
·   Contact EFF with questions at info@eff.org.
·   Write down the details of what happened while they are fresh in your mind, including names and badge numbers of officers if possible.

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