Helpful Tips

Using a public wireless network or hotspot can expose you to risks you should know about:

- Many public access points are not secured, and the traffic they carry is not encrypted. This can put your sensitive communications or transactions at risk.

- Enable or install a firewall. A firewall is the first line of defense for your computer since it's designed to prevent unauthorized access to your computer. Firewalls screen incoming and outgoing access requests to make sure they are legitimate and approved. Both Windows and Mac operating systems have built-in firewalls that you should make sure are enabled, especially before connecting to a public wi-fi.

- Because you're likely to connect to an unsecured, unencrypted network connection when you use public wi-fi, be careful about what you do online. Consider avoiding online banking, online shopping, sending email and typing passwords or credit card numbers.

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