

Samsung features to help protect your phone from theft

The good news is that if you have a Galaxy phone, Samsung includes a number of features that help protect your phone and user data in case the device is stolen.

Phone theft is more than just losing your device – your data could end up in the wrong hands. The good news, though, is that if you have a Galaxy phone, Samsung has built in a number of features to help protect your phone and your data in the event of theft.

Learn about Samsung's multi-layered anti-theft system

Samsung has significantly enhanced the protection capabilities on Galaxy phones with One UI 7. The update introduces three **Theft Protection** features : **Theft Detection Lock** , **Offline Device Lock** , and **Remote Lock** . There are also two **Anti-Robbery** features - **Identity check** and **Security Delay** . These features work in tandem to protect user data if the phone is stolen.

The beauty of this method is its multi-layered nature. Since there are multiple features operating at different levels, thieves will need to overcome multiple hurdles before they can access your data. Often, this is enough to stop them – or at least give you enough time to hold them off before remotely wiping all the data on your phone.

Samsung isn't the only phone maker offering Theft Protection features on its phones. Google introduced several Theft Protection features on Pixel phones in its 2024 Android 15 release.

Theft Detection Lock

Theft Detection Lock is an AI-powered feature that provides real-time protection against phone theft when you are in public. It uses machine learning technology and data from the phone's motion sensor to detect theft-related movements, such as when someone tries to snatch your phone and run away with it. As soon as it detects suspicious movement, it immediately locks the phone's screen to prevent the thief from using it or accessing your personal data on it.

Note that Theft Detection Lock won't activate if your phone is connected to a stable Wi-Fi network or Bluetooth device. However, when it's accidentally activated, you can unlock your screen with biometrics, a PIN, or a pattern as usual.

Offline Device Lock

Offline Device Lock automatically locks your phone's screen if it's disconnected from the Internet for an extended period of time. Once enabled, it will activate when a thief disables the connection to prevent tracking or remotely lock it. When an intruder turns on airplane mode or turns off cellular data/Wi-Fi, your phone will detect the loss of connection and automatically lock the screen after a period of time.

Samsung doesn't specify how long Offline Device Lock will stay active after losing connection, nor does it provide any way to configure it. The company only mentions that it can lock the screen up to twice a day.

Remote Lock

Remote Lock has been present on Galaxy phones for a while now. However, with the One UI 7 update, the feature has been updated to work with other Theft Protection features. What's more, it's much more powerful and user-friendly.

This feature is useful after your device has been stolen or lost. With this feature, you can remotely lock your stolen phone from anywhere. Once done, this feature will immediately block access to your phone and data.

Enabling Remote Lock ensures that data on your device is secure, even if other measures, such as Theft Detection Lock and Offline Device Lock, fail.

Identity Check

Identity Check adds an extra layer of protection to your Galaxy phone. It prevents unauthorized changes to sensitive settings, like your Samsung account password, screen lock method, or Find My Mobile status in SmartThings Find. That way, even if a thief knows your PIN, password, or pattern, they can't change any settings, because your phone will prompt them to authenticate with biometrics when they try to access protected settings.

Additionally, if a thief attempts to reset the biometric data, the Security Delay feature will kick in and trigger a 1-hour wait before any changes take effect. This gives you more time to remotely lock your stolen phone.

Phone theft is a scary event with unpredictable consequences. However, with the proactive measures outlined above, you can significantly reduce the risk of unauthorized access to your phone and prevent your data from falling into the wrong hands. In addition, there are a number of other measures you can take to protect your smartphone from theft.

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