



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

A GUIDE TO ENSURING YOUR PRIVACY AND DATA RIGHTS AT BORDER CROSSINGS

Lessons Learned from the event

Securing your Privacy and Data Rights at Border Crossings



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Travelling, both for business and leisure, exposes us to diverse cultures, alternative approaches to problem-solving and networking opportunities. Travel is instrumental in fostering professional and personal growth. It helps the economy and facilitates business endeavors.

Travelling also requires navigating borders, which involves various risks such as profiling, secondary searches, scams, and security threats. Travelling means entering unfamiliar territory—one that may be controlled by a government, law enforcement, or individuals with malicious intent.

The highest profiling risk is at checkpoints, such as airport security, building access points, or border crossings. The primary goal while travelling should be to efficiently pass through checkpoints as quickly as possible while protecting your privacy and without creating any other issues.

Consider the following factors before approaching a checkpoint, as they may lead to secondary searches that put you, your devices, and data at risk.

- 1** Sensitivity of data being transported: determine what precautions and safety measures are required to protect critical data.
- 2** Data relevance: reduce data access to the essentials.
- 3** Infrastructure and internet access: consider connectivity options and potential limitations during travel and upon arrival.
- 4** Data and device ownership: different levels of responsibility are involved depending on whether the device is personal or work-related and may require your employer's help.
- 5** Currency: plan for payment methods, such as local currency or credit cards, and the device access required to use them.

While traveling, there are certain factors such as planning and preparation which we can control, and which can make for a much smoother journey. We can control our itinerary, the items we pack, and decisions related to our personal safety. However, external elements like weather conditions or unexpected events may be beyond our control. Adequate preparation involves considering potential risks to ultimately minimize your attack surface.

To simplify checkpoints and avoid the loss of privacy and data rights, we recommend the following:

- 1 Identify potential risks and plan accordingly.
- 2 Remove data this is unnecessary or could attract unwanted attention.
- 3 Prepare for loss or theft with back up devices or tracking tools.
- 4 Regularly update, encrypt and secure devices with passwords.
- 5 Be transparent at checkpoints.
- 6 Adjust social media settings to private.
- 7 Use airplane mode or turn off your devices at checkpoints.
- 8 Be courteous and helpful with checkpoint staff.

Effectively navigating the challenges and risks associated with border crossings requires a certain amount of humility and respect. With strategic planning, you can mitigate potential problems and ensure a more enjoyable and stress-free journey.



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