

Other Ways to Make Your Phone More Secure

If you have sensitive data on your phone, you might want to make it even more secure from unauthorized access. You can employ a number of higher-security restrictions—although, to be honest, most are probably overkill for the average user.

It's Not All Good

Advanced Users Only

The following operations are for advanced users only. Most of us should *not* attempt to activate these options—they're very complex and could lock you out of your phone if you do something wrong!

Enabling Private Mode

Samsung offers a Private Mode to lock selected data used in a variety of Samsung apps—specifically, the Gallery, Video, Music, Voice Recorder, and My Files apps. Here's how it works.

When you turn on Private Mode, you can save individual files (photos, videos, whatever) as private from within the host apps. As long as Private Mode is activated, those private files are visible. But when you turn off Private Mode, files marked as private are hidden—no one will even know they're there. You have to turn Private Mode back on to view those files.

To activate Private Mode, you have to enter a separate PIN, password, or other method of authentication to access data files within those apps. (You can still have the main authentication for the Lock screen, of course; this is in addition to that.) You can configure Private Mode so that it turns off whenever your phone's screen is turned off—thus hiding all your private files from everyone else, until you manually turn Private Mode back on again.

To be honest, this is a rather clunky way to hide files from unwanted eyes. I recommend using it only if you have ultra-sensitive files you need to keep as private as possible.

You activate Private Mode from the Settings, Privacy and Safety, Private Mode screen. To hide a given file, open that file in the associated app, tap More, Move to Private. This item will now be hidden the next time you exit Private Mode. To view hidden items, you have to turn Private Mode back on.

Encrypting Your Data

Another approach to securing the files on your phone is to encrypt that data. Encryption essentially scrambles the data so that no one can read it. You have to decrypt the data to unscramble it for use.

You can configure your Samsung S6 or S6 Edge to encrypt the data stored on the device. To decrypt your data, you have to manually enter a PIN or password (separate from your unlock PIN or password) every time you power on your phone.

You enable data encryption from the Settings, Lock Screen and Security, Other Security Settings, Encrypt Phone screen.

Before You Encrypt

Before you encrypt the data on your phone, your phone must be connected to a charger, and the battery level must be at least 80%. Encryption can take more than an hour.

Lock Your SIM Card

There's something else you can lock on your phone besides the Lock screen. You can lock the SIM card that connects your phone to your mobile network. With the SIM card locked, strangers can't access personal information stored there, nor use the card to make unauthorized phone calls.

When you lock the SIM card, you'll be asked for a separate PIN every time you use the phone. You lock your SIM card from the Settings, Lock Screen and Security, Other Security Settings, Set UP SIM Card Lock screen.