

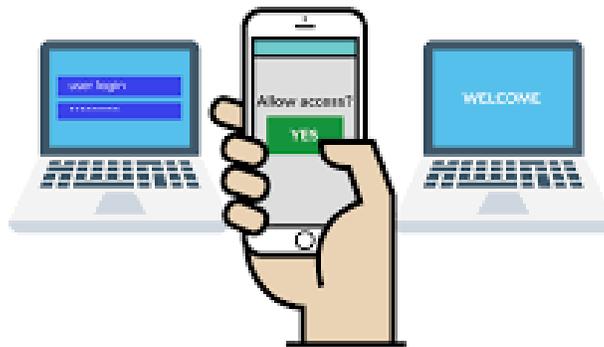


# West Virginia State Privacy Office

## Privacy Tips

### *February: The Multi-Factor "Deadbolt"*

#### Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)



In the world of government security, a password is no longer enough to protect an account. Hackers use "credential stuffing," where they take leaked passwords from old data breaches and try them on every major site.

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is the "deadbolt" on your digital door. Even if a hacker has your key (password), they can't get past the second lock (the code sent to your phone or app).

#### **Your Action:**

- Secure your "Primary 3": your personal email, your bank, and your mobile phone provider account.
- Log in to each, go to security settings, and enable MFA, ideally using an "Authenticator App" like Google or Microsoft Authenticator rather than text messages, which can be intercepted by sophisticated scammers.

*\*Note: Your agency/bureau/department/division may have specific requirements – always check your policies and procedures. If you have questions, contact your Privacy Officer.*