

Zoom Security Updates

There have been news stories about Zoom's security and safety issues, which have been alarming, fortunately fixes have been recently implemented to fix the areas of concern.

"Since the coronavirus lockdown, Zoom's daily active users shot up from around 10 million to 300 million as people use the platform for happy hours, work meetings, support groups and even funerals. Users struggled with "Zoom-bombing", a new kind of attack in which bad actors enter video meetings and shout slurs and threats to disrupt them. To prevent this, all meetings now require a password to join a meeting.

Zoom also added a new encryption standard, called AES 256-bit GCM encryption, which is considered the "gold standard" of encryption and is used by the US government to secure data. This change will help prevent meetings from being hijacked by hackers, said Thomas Hatch, the co-founder and chief technology officer of Utah-based software firm SaltStack.

In a call on Thursday, April 23, 2020, CEO Yuan reiterated that Zoom will not sell user data. Zoom had been forced to change its policies around data sale after a story from Motherboard at Vice revealed Zoom sends data from users of its iOS app to Facebook for advertising purposes, even if the user does not have a Facebook account. This feature has been removed from Zoom."

Quoted from The Guardian, Kari Paul Thu 23 Apr 2020 17.19. EDIT Last modified on Fri 24 Apr 2020 21.52 EDT. Slight editing for clarity and brevity by Bob Jones, Sunday, April 26, 2020.

In Summary:

Password Protected Meetings

Authenticated Users

Participant Screen Sharing Turned Off

Randomly-Generated Meeting Id For Every Meeting

File Sharing Turned Off

Host Remove Nuisance Attendees

Controlled data routing (Zoom meetings hosted by and involving U.S. residents had been routed through servers based in China)

Robocalling prevented (with rate limiting and reCAPTCHA (requires human intervention) enabled across all platforms)

Remember the Grace email with the weekly Zoom invitation will have the meeting ID, and the password, for your security. You can either go to <http://www.zoom.us> to log into the meeting or open the app.

Don't forget to check for updates, as security issues crop up and patches are deployed or functions are disabled, make sure you have the latest version before joining. Open the desktop application, click on your profile in the top-right, and select "Check for updates." You do not need to check for updates if using a Browser to access Zoom. IOS and android app users are automatically notified of updates.