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ADDRESSING THE NEEDS AND  
SECURING THE FUTURE

## Helping secure your world

# Security Solutions

### Editor's Note

Whether you're traveling domestically or internationally, choosing the right transfer or taxi service can be a source of concern. Making the wrong choice could add frustration to your trip instead of alleviating it. Our first article delves into the benefits and security risks associated with private transfers. When you're away from home, thoughts of home protection often linger, as some criminals target vulnerable properties while others may brazenly invade your space.

The second article offers tips on preventing garage burglaries. While your first instinct might be to purchase a lock, online shopping makes it easy to find the right one from retailers like Amazon or Walmart. We'll guide you on how to

effectively buy locks online in article three.

Virtual private networks (VPNs) are essential for safeguarding devices against hackers and protecting your online activities, but it's crucial to choose a reliable service that doesn't compromise your data or introduce malware. Article four highlights five warning signs that a VPN could be a scam. Additionally, we explore the shift from traditional passwords to fingerprint and facial recognition technologies. While these biometric methods offer convenience, concerns about their security effectiveness are addressed in article five.

Lastly, we tackle a topic that resonates with many: when a loved one suffers from a chronic illness like

Alzheimer's or Parkinson's, families often explore various suggested remedies. However, some of these purported cures may interfere with approved medications that provide real benefits.

Understanding these issues and learning how to protect yourself are vital life skills. We hope you find these articles informative and that the insights help you stay safe and secure.

Regards  
Carril Reyes-Telesford  
ASSL Marketing Team

# Four Benefits of Using Private Transfers

By Shalini M

Whether you are going to travel nationally or internationally, you may be worried about how to choose the right transfer service. If you don't choose the right service, your trip may end up adding to your frustration instead of relieving it. However, we can share with you a method that can help you reduce your anxiety: you can hire private transfers.

In this article, we are going to shed some light on this service and its benefits. Read on to know more.



## Private Airport Transfer Service

As the name suggests, this private service can pick you from the airport and drop you to your desired destination. Once your trip is over, the same service can pick you up and drop you at the airport.

Based on your budget and needs, you can book this service online as well. You can choose

from a lot of companies, but make sure you go with an efficient and trustworthy provider. Online testimonials can help you make the choice more easily.

Let's take a look at some of the benefits you can enjoy by availing yourself of this service.

### 1. Less Stress

If you want to relive your travel anxiety, you can hire a private airport transfer service. There are many sources of anxiety, such as booking an unfamiliar vehicle or being unaware of the travel direction.

But if you contact a driving company, you won't suffer from any stress. This way you can focus on your trip instead.

### 2. No Chance of Getting Lost

As said earlier, the possibility of getting lost is one of the main reasons for stress for travelers. If you hire a private transfer, you can rest assured that you won't get lost as the professional driver will always be with you and will get you to your desired destination safely.

### 3. No Stress or Tension

If you navigate on unfamiliar streets, you may suffer from stress. By booking a private vehicle or bus ahead of time, you can enjoy a professional traveling experience. Most of the companies employ experienced drivers. They are polite and courteous, thus offering a lot of comfort

throughout your trip. Moreover, some tourists may even let you know about popular tourist attractions.

### 4. Security and Reliability

Another common problem travelers face is the possibility of losing their stuff while going from one place to another. But if you hire a private transfer service, your luggage will be in good hands throughout your journey.



If you choose public transport, on the other hand, you may be surrounded by people you don't know. This may increase your anxiety as your stuff may be at risk. On the other hand, a private transfer can keep your stuff in good hands, and offer you the freedom to choose your favorite vehicle.

## The Takeaway

Long story short, if you pre-book a private transfer service, you can enjoy a lot of benefits. On the other hand, you can't enjoy these benefits if you choose to opt for public transport. Hopefully, this article will help you make the right choice.

Article

Source: [https://EzineArticles.com/expert/Shalini\\_M/2609777](https://EzineArticles.com/expert/Shalini_M/2609777)

# Some Ways to Prevent Garage Burglary

By Lee Mark

A growing number of people in present times are getting worried about their homes being robbed. Criminals tend to hunt for properties that are easy to target, and garages are their preferred targets because they are usually less maintained and secured. Although you don't have to be an obvious scapegoat to the crooks, accordingly, there are some preventive measures you can take to save your home and assets from being burglarized. Read further to gain information about those precautionary steps you can take to secure your garage from burglary.



## 1. Surveillance Cameras

To begin with, installing a security camera is the most reliable way to prevent crime. It also acts as a deterrent when planted in strategically visible locations. Additionally, they will enable you to examine recorded footage in case any incident occurs. The number

and type of cameras required will depend upon the size of property and budget, even though we recommend covering entries and exits along with the surrounding property. Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) cameras are a great option for people who want higher control over their cameras or want to employ fewer cameras for more coverage. PTZ cameras let users to remotely check and manage the view of the camera from any location through a smartphone/tablet/laptop.

## 2. Glass Break Sensors

Glass break sensors are usually an ignored fortification to your security system. A lot of criminals, search for alternative ways of entering a property which often leads them to windows. Besides, shutting and fastening windows, you should also consider investing in glass break sensors as, in the end, they are merely breakable glass panes. Garage windowpanes are more exposed to being shattered as they are usually not connected to the home or are on the far end.

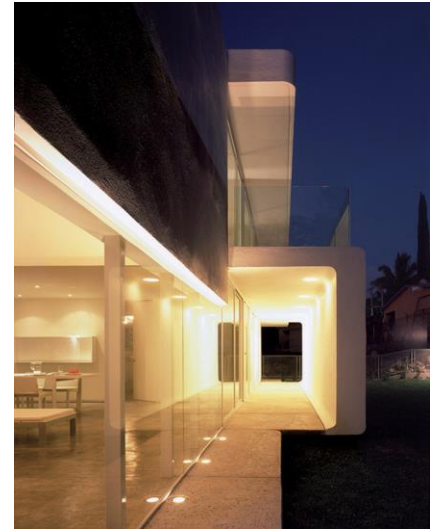
## 3. Sirens and Strobes

Sirens and strobe lights are another incredible enhancement to your security system. They are an immense relief in securing your property following a break-in. If a criminal makes an attempt to invade your property and they are welcomed with bright flash lighting and loud alarms notifying people of their misdeeds. In such a case, they

will surely flee from the scene immediately. Crooks like to sneak around, so bringing attention to their actions will send them into a panic, saving you from being a desirable target.

## 4. Motion Floodlight

Motion-activated floodlights are a great deterrent to crime, making it tougher for a criminal to sneak inside your property. They also make them suspect whether the property is owned by security-conscious people. Floodlights will further aid your surveillance cameras in recording high-quality footage you can give for law enforcement. Along with that floodlights can notify your neighbors that an illegal situation is happening, and they can inform you and law enforcement.



## 5. Digital communicator

One last device to consider is a digital communicator such as a GSM Bridge. These devices enable users to connect their CCTV feed to smart gadgets,



allowing them to get updates. The devices like these feature grant you extra control in your hand so that you don't require to go out and examine a potential crime scene. Also, you can employ this to manage your alarm system and control your camera feed if the triggered event is a false or bogus alarm like some stray animal trespassing your premises.



#### Wrap Up:

There are many directions or preventive measures that you can take to upgrade your surveillance security system. However, these are just a few reliable device options to get you started with leading a secure life. In combination, the above equipment should create a complete system that will help guard and prevent your property and assets from burglary.

#### Article

Source: [https://EzineArticles.com/expert/Lee\\_Mark/2266383](https://EzineArticles.com/expert/Lee_Mark/2266383)

# How to Buy Locks On-Line

By George Uliano

Buying Locks On-Line is a very easy way to find the correct lock for your needs. However, there may be times that it might be better to call a Locksmith. Such as if you needed locks for your house or business and you are not able to install these yourself. In most other circumstances buying locks on-line is a very good way to find security that serve your needs.

Not all On-Line lock stores are created equal. Some will take them off the shelf and ship them. You can't order anything special such as keyed alike or keyed different. Also, some stores are not "Lock People" in other words they really do not know security and won't be able to offer you any real help selecting a lock.

Here are some things to look for when Buying Locks On-Line:

- Can you call them and speak to a real "Lock Person"?
- Do they offer all levels of security?
- Do they offer custom lock assembly?
- Can they cut the quantity of keys that you need?
- Do they offer patented products?
- Are they an authorized service center and distributor for major worldwide manufacturers?



So, the above statement "All On-Line Lock Stores are not Created Equal" is very true. If you go to a big box store to buy a padlock, you find the padlock shelf and pick out the padlock. You will not get any help as to the security level or special keying options. You will find the same problem with some On-Line Lock stores, no help in selecting the right lock for your application.

When you go to an On-Line Lock Store web site, it should be easy to find the type of lock you are looking for. From there you should find option selections such as; color, shackle length, keyed alike or keyed different, number of keys needed and other options. How many locks do you need? Let's say you want to order 25 padlocks and want one key to open them all (keyed alike). You also want these padlocks to offer a patented keyway with the keys registered to you (high security). Can you get this from an On-Line Lock Store, yes you can from the right store.

If you are having a problem selecting a lock look for their 800 number, it should be easily found, and call them, you should be able to speak to a lock professional that can help

you select the correct lock. If you can't call them leave that site.

#### About the Author

George Uliano is a security professional with years of law enforcement and security experience. He earned a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and Business graduating with honors. George holds three U.S. patents on different locking principles. This combination gives George and His Company Locking Systems International Inc the unique ability to provide its customers with the correct security at an affordable price.

#### Article

Source: [https://EzineArticles.com/expert/George\\_Uliano/1500014](https://EzineArticles.com/expert/George_Uliano/1500014)

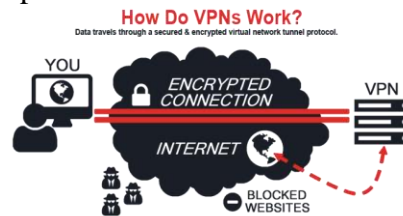
Amalgamated Security Services offer a full range of security service solutions which are inclusive of the following:

- Response Services
- Alarm Monitoring
- Guarding Services
- Electronic Service
- Courier Services
- Assess Controls
- Data Services
- Cash Services
- Investigations

## 5 Red Flags That Signal a VPN Scam

Worries about the security of our mobile devices could inadvertently lure us into a VPN scam.

VPNs -- virtual private networks -- are an effective way of protecting devices from hackers and hiding our online activities but only if you use one that doesn't sell your data or upload malware onto them.



In this week's issue, we'll identify the warning signs of a VPN scam and explain how to go about finding a trustworthy one.

Let's get started...

### 5 Red Flags That Signal a VPN Scam

Is it free? Will it last a lifetime? Or is it just another VPN scam?

We wrote about VPNs -- virtual private networks -- last year. Since then, there's been a huge growth in their usage because of security risks associated with increased use of mobile devices.

In very simple terms (see our previous issue for more detail -- <https://scambusters.org/vpn.htm>

), a VPN is an Internet service that creates a secure connection between your computer and other networks. It stops hackers from accessing your PC when you're using a public Wi-Fi network and it provides a degree of anonymity, making it difficult for anyone to track your activity or identify your data.

This is particularly important when we use our mobile devices away from the security of our home network. As a result, hundreds, probably thousands, of VPN services have popped up, seeking to lure users to sign up.

Why should this be? Well, the legitimate ones are mainly businesses out to make a profit -- by charging you more than it costs them to maintain their services. That's fair enough. That's business.

But others are less scrupulous. After all, they know who you are and what you're looking at -- valuable data they can sell to eager third parties. They can also load malware onto your PC to steal information they can sell. And, in some cases, they've been known to sell customers' bandwidth -- that's the amount of data your Internet service provider (ISP) will handle for you per second.

So, if your ISP sells you a high-speed service of, say, 60 megabits per second (Mbps), the VPN scammer might restrict you to 30 Mbps, and sell the remaining capacity to someone

operating a botnet -- a network of hijacked PCs used to send out spam.

## Red Flags

The challenge you face is knowing which ones you can trust and which are just VPN scams.

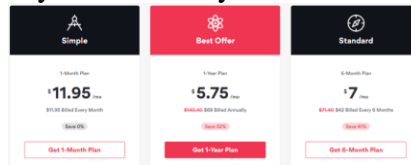
Here are some of the red flags you should look out for when you're VPN shopping:

1. You're offered a lifetime subscription for a knock-down price. The operator can't afford to do this unless they're either selling your data, planning to cancel the deal after a short time, or simply harvesting subscriptions before they close down.
2. It's free! Think about it. How can a VPN service operate servers all over the world and charge you nothing for using them? Again, they might be selling your data, bombarding you with ads or even redirecting you to pages from which they earn a fee.
3. They're relatively new and make unreasonable claims -- such as being the fastest or most reliable -- and guarantees about the security of your data. Unless the new service comes from a well-known name in the software business, consider it as suspect.
4. Rave reviews. This is bad news. Most of us rely on what others say when we're researching a product. But not in this case. There's evidence

that some VPN scammers operate their own review sites in which their product, of course, comes out on top.

You can still do your research by adding words like "scam" to the name of the VPN you're considering but steer clear of review sites unless they belong to well-known names such as computer magazine publishers (see below).

5. The seller is an agent for a VPN company but doesn't operate the service himself. If you use one, you're adding just one more potential source of data leaks and security breaches to your risks. Buy direct!



## How to Find A Trustworthy and Secure VPN

The red flags we've raised don't necessarily mean that a deal is a VPN scam. But you should certainly give them serious weight when you're deciding which service to buy.

Fortunately, there are some reputable research sites where VPNs are put to the test as regards to their privacy, reliability, and honesty.

One such site is RestorePrivacy.com whose declared mission is "to give you all the information and tools you need to restore your online privacy, secure your electronic devices, and stay safe online."

The site doesn't carry ads, but it says upfront that it does earn a commission if you buy one of the products in its list. All services are thoroughly tested and then ranked according to key factors like where they are based, whether there's any data "leakage," speed, reliability, trustworthiness, and track record.

Importantly, the site also has a VPN warning list, naming VPNs that allegedly have shown signs of infringement of the ideals listed -- mainly containing malware or tracking users' behavior.

We can't vouch for the accuracy of this site, of course, but our own research and the site's declared mission suggest that it's trustworthy. Other reputable sites include TheBestVPN.com and VPNmentor.com.

At present, only a quarter of all Internet users are using VPNs. If you're not one of them but are a regular user of mobile devices, it's probably time you gave the subject serious consideration.

And if you do use one that's covered in our red flags list, maybe you should be checking your provider out and thinking about switching. After all, if you're a VPN scam victim, you could end up worse off than if you weren't using a service at all.

Reprinted from Scambusters.org



# How safe are Fingerprint and Facial Recognition Sign-On?

How reliable is reading your fingerprints or facial features when it comes to computer security? We've written many times about the insecurity of easy-to-guess passwords and the challenges of creating and remembering multiple, more complex words. Don't you just hate them?



Computer security experts are now predicting the demise of letter/number/symbols combos as the first line of defense against hackers and other criminals.

Instead, we're increasingly seeing the use of facial recognition and fingerprint reading technology - biometrics as it's called -- especially on laptops, phones and tablets, as well as some cash dispensers.

And in May this year, Microsoft's head of security technology, Yogesh Mehta, told Forbes magazine: "The 800 million people who use Windows 10

(are) one step closer to a world without passwords." He was referring to the fact that the last version of Windows 10, which is being rolled out at the moment, is fully equipped to use compatible camera technology to use its Windows Hello recognition technology.

An organization called the Fast Identity Online Alliance (FIDO) has been established to set security standards for what its chief marketing officer Andrew Shikiar refers to as its "mission to move beyond the world of passwords."

Despite all of this and the undoubted convenience of biometric identification, there are still worries about the effectiveness of this technology in protecting our security. As long as five years ago, a group of hackers known as the Chaos Computer Club said they had captured and replicated the thumbprint of a leading German politician just by using a regular photograph. Police forensics also demonstrate every day that it's relatively easy to capture fingerprints off items a person has touched.

## Expert's View

British cybersecurity expert Alan Woodward told the BBC: "Biometrics that rely on static information like face recognition or fingerprints -- it's not trivial to forge them but most people have accepted that they are not a great form of security because they can be faked."

He told the broadcaster that experts were now looking at more advanced biometrics like vein and iris recognition or the

way a person moves ("gait"). Hitachi apparently has already developed a device that detects the unique pattern of veins inside a person's finger.

Even before all of this - in 2012 - security researchers warned that flaws in some software that manages biometric identification could be flawed and open to hackers. However, that may not be the point of this trend. One of the key aspects of biometric security is that the technology that records you fingerprint, face, veins or whatever, stores that information in complex cryptographic code.



This can be distributed across multiple locations - for example, partly on a user's PC and partly on a corporate server. That is to say, it might not be impossible to copy someone's fingerprint or facial features but crooks who steal identity information in bulk by breaking into commercial databases may find it tougher to use the data they steal.

Posing the question "Are biometrics safe?" leading security firm Symantec, aka Norton, points out that the more we use this technology, the more copies of our data there will be on various commercial systems. And, as we already know, some firms take better care to protect their data than others. And, as the firm points out, while it's easy to change a compromised password, you can't change your fingerprint!

What this seems to mean is that, despite Microsoft's hope, total reliance on this technology could be some way off. Ultimately, as another security firm, Verdium, recently commented: "No security system is entirely spoof-proof, including biometric ones." However, the difficulty in acquiring and using biometric data can make it so hard and time-consuming to break into that hackers will decide it's not worth all the effort it takes."

Let's hope so. In the meanwhile, it's possible that two-factor authentication, which we wrote about a while ago (see <https://scambusters.org/password-security2.html>), could be paired with biometrics.

This would mean that, after identifying your fingerprint or whatever, a device would then need you to input a complementary piece of information to confirm you are who you say you are. To us, that sounds an awful lot like a password!

Reprinted from Scambusters.org

Excerpt

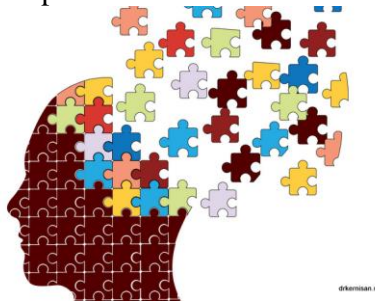
Is security that's based on your fingerprint or your facial features safer than using a password?

Yes and no, say the experts.

They likely won't make it tougher to steal your sign-on and other personal data, but it'll be harder for crooks to use what they get on a large scale, as we explain in this week's issue.

## Worries Mount Over Alzheimer's Cure Claims

When someone has a prolonged incurable disease, like Alzheimer's or Parkinson's, it's inevitable that they or their family may try all manner of suggested or rumored cures. It happens as much out of a feeling that there's nothing to lose as any genuine belief in the alternative therapies.



But there is something to lose. Trying unproven treatments on the basis of spurious claims may delay or even affect approved medications that have been shown to offer benefits to some victims.

Some supposed treatments are also expensive - reducing the amount of money a victim may have to spend on more effective care.

We've written on this topic before - mostly in relation to unproven treatments for cancer (see <https://scambusters.org/ivdrip.html>). But as the search intensifies for a cure or effective treatment of dementia, including Alzheimer's Disease, so has the number of alternative treatments

-- some of them total scams. A study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found almost one third of ads they investigated falsely claimed a product could protect against dementia, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's. And, recently, the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) sent out warning letters to firms whose ads claimed their products could treat the illness. The FTC and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) became "secret shoppers," posing as potential buyers of some of these products and found there was no scientific evidence or legitimate research to back up their claims.

Worse, some of the manufacturers or suppliers claimed they could actually treat multiple disorders like cancer, schizophrenia, diabetes, and epilepsy with exactly the same product.

"In our experience, a product advertised as a cure-all often turns out to be a cure-nothing..." the Commission said. "Just because a product is available online or sits on a store shelf is no guarantee that its ad claims are true."

It's illegal for someone to advertise a product they claim can prevent, treat or cure a disease without scrupulous scientific proof of its effectiveness. But sometimes, some of the claims these suppliers make are absolutely outrageous. For example, one ad said: "You can even reverse mental decline associated with dementia or even Alzheimer's in just a week." And: "Can reduce the risk of Alzheimer's by half."



Firms may even falsely claim their products are "clinically proven."

The FDA comments: "At best, the products offered by these scam artists will have no effect on the patient; at worst they may pose a danger to a patient who takes them. Not only will they not do what they claim, the ingredients in these products may interact with, and potentially interfere with, essential medications."

You should always be dubious about any claims to have achieved a scientific breakthrough, the FDA adds, and check with your doctor or healthcare professional before trying non-prescription medicines, including those labeled as "dietary supplements" - a common ruse used by scammers.

Not all alternative remedies are out-and-out scams. Some dietary supplements gain popularity and credibility just by word of mouth or well-intended online posts, as well as misleading or vague claims about memory-boosting supplements. Not only are most of these products ineffective, but they also result in more than 23,000 visits to the emergency room every year, and the FDA says the actual number of incidents per year may be more than double that total.

According to the US-based Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)), "claims about the safety and effectiveness of these products... are largely based on testimonials, tradition, and a

rather small body of scientific research." Even though some of these products could be worthy of more investigation, using them as an alternative or in addition to physician-prescribed therapies is cause for concern, the organization says. Their safety and effectiveness are unknown; so is their level of purity as well as their potential interactions.

The Association offers commentary on eight common products for which unsubstantiated claims have been made: Huperzine A, Caprylic Acid and coconut oil, Omega 3 fatty acids, Coenzyme Q10, Phosphatidylserine, Coral Calcium, Tramiprosate, and Ginkgo Biloba.

Read their full report here: <https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/treatments/alternative-treatments>

While the search for an effective treatment for Alzheimer's (which is the most common form of dementia) goes on, it's everyone's duty to protect vulnerable sufferers.

For example, it's been shown that dementia victims are more likely to fall for scams that people with normal brain function might spot immediately

It's wicked when crooks cash in and offer false hope to people with Alzheimer's. If you're unfortunate enough to suffer or to have a sufferer in your family, there's one simple rule to help you avoid the tricksters: If their so-called cure really worked, every sufferer would be using it.

Amalgamated Security Services offer a full range of security service solutions which are inclusive of the following:

- Response Services
- Alarm Monitoring
- Guarding Services
- Electronic Service
- Courier Services
- Assess Controls
- Data Services
- Cash Services
- Investigations