Securing your Amazon Alexa
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Amazon Alexa's and similar devices have become incredibly popular in recent years and are in nearly 66 million homes across America. Unfortunately, this can be a security risk for individual consumers because smart assistants are sold for cheap prices precisely in order to gather data on their customers and monetize that data for the companies. While there is no way of completely protecting your data and continuing to use these assistants these are some ways to mitigate the privacy issues that are inherent to using Amazon Alexa's

- **Delete recordings**
  It is fairly easy to delete recordings off of your Amazon Alexa device, unfortunately this does not necessarily delete any information Amazon may have gathered from these recordings.

  1. Open the Amazon Alexa app
  2. Open More and select Settings
  3. Select Alexa Privacy
  4. Select Review Voice History
  5. Select any entry or range of entries and then select delete

- **Change wake word**
  Changing the wake word on your device can be a useful way of limiting the times that the Alexa is accidentally activated by choosing a word unlikely to come up in normal conversation.

  1. Open the Amazon Alexa app
  2. Select Devices
  3. Select your device
  4. Select Device Settings, then select Wake Word
  5. Select a wake word, then select OK

- **Turn off mic and camera**
  Turning off the mic and camera of an Alexa can be a good way of limiting the information it can gather when it is not in use. Most models of Alexa have a button with this symbol Ø on either the back or the top that will mute the microphone and prevent it from listening. Once pressing the button it should show that it is muted often by changing the circle light red

- **Use a strong Amazon password**
  All recordings made with the Amazon Alexa are stored in your Amazon account so choosing a strong Amazon password can prevent unwanted people from accessing these recordings.

  1. Go to Amazon Password Assistance
  2. Enter email address or phone number associated with your account and select Continue
  3. Check your email or phone number for the One Time Password (OTP)
  4. Enter the OTP and select continue
  5. Create a new password and enter it twice

- **Set voice purchase pin**
  Setting a Voice Purchase Pin can be an effective way of preventing unwanted purchases from being made on your Amazon Alexa.

  1. Open the Amazon Alexa app
  2. Open More and select Settings
  3. Select Account Settings
  4. Select Voice Purchasing
  5. Go to Purchase Confirmation
  6. Select Manage
  7. Turn Voice code on and set your 4-digit voice code