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How Do I Lock Down My Phone?

With the advent of smart phones, people have already begun to imagine scenarios in which smart phones are used to control cars, James Bond style. Perhaps you're not an international spy and no one wants to lock up your car's braking system, but smart phones still make you vulnerable to identity theft if you lose them or they get stolen. In these cases, you'll need a useful, practical alternative to drowning your sorrows in your nearest bar. You'll need to be able to lock down your phone remotely.

WaveSecure is an app from Android that allows you to do just that. Acquired my McAfee, the app costs \$19.90 for a year's subscription. You can not only to lock down your phone, you can erase its memory and track its location. If you're lucky and get the phone back, you can also restore the phone's contents. In the event of your needing a new phone, the Android Market keeps a list of the apps you've purchased so you don't have to buy them again.

1. The easiest way to get the application is to go to [m.wavesecure.com](http://m.wavesecure.com) on your phone browser.
2. Download WaveSecure.
3. Input a PIN and a Buddy Number. Your PIN is the same for the WaveSecure application and website access. It's a six digit number.
4. Follow the rest of the installation process.
5. If your phone is stolen, you can lock it by sending it an SMS message (Secure Lock <PIN>). This way, WaveSecure cannot be uninstalled by another user. You can also set the phone to lock automatically when the SIM card is replaced.
6. Once you download and install WaveSecure, you should visit the website to back up your information and files and make sure you have your options set to restore them in the event you get your phone back.

It's a bummer if you lose your phone or it gets stolen, but with WaveSecure you'll at least be at peace knowing your information and files are secure. And hey, what's better than being able to track your phone's whereabouts on a computer? If that doesn't make you feel like James Bond, nothing will.

<https://www.wavesecure.com/>

<https://www.wavesecure.com/faq.aspx>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/14/technology/personaltech/14app.html>