

Getting Smart With Smartphones

Did you know changing a few settings on your phone could save you hundreds of ringgit? Find out how

More and more Malaysians are finding smartphones an indispensable tool. A 2011 study by Google and IPSOS Research says that 68 percent of Malaysians never leave home without their smartphones, 64 percent use their devices to go online for information when they're not in front of a computer, and 43 percent use it to access the Internet on a daily basis. This means greater convenience – but it also means a higher phone bill! Here's how to keep your costs from spiralling out of control.

Check Internet Settings

When not using the Internet, disable your phone's data settings. Otherwise, you'll be charged each time you receive an email.

Get A New Data Plan

A higher bill could mean you're on the wrong phone plan, so look into your current call and data package and see if there's a better deal for mobile Internet services.

Travel, But Don't Roam

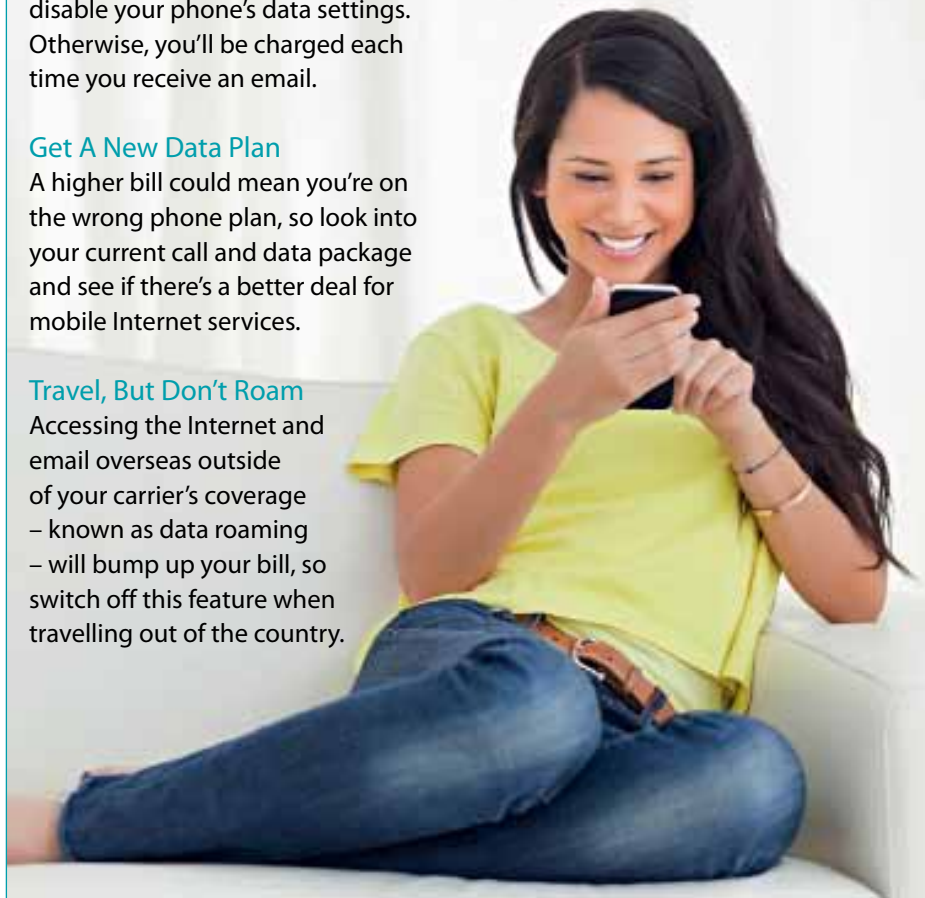
Accessing the Internet and email overseas outside of your carrier's coverage – known as data roaming – will bump up your bill, so switch off this feature when travelling out of the country.

Discover IDD Cards

Instead of calling overseas on your mobile phone plan, buy an international direct dial prepaid card, such as the iTalk card by Telekom Malaysia and be amazed at how much you can save.

Chat, Text, Surf For Free

Instead of paying for an expensive data package, look for places with free WiFi; there are plenty around. Skype is a computer-to-computer calling software that allows you to make free calls, and WhatsApp lets you text for free (note that both you and the receiver need to have Skype and WhatsApp installed).



ASK THE EXPERT

Q & A

"I've joined a company as part of higher management and I'm the only woman amongst a group of alpha males. Should I change my management style to fit in?" – Mel, 35

Congratulations! You've achieved an important milestone in your career based on your merits. This is the perfect opportunity for you to shine in your new environment. Here's how:

Be Yourself Whatever you've been doing is working, so keep at it and make it bigger. Being the rose among the thorns can work to your advantage. You don't have anything to prove and surely you don't want to blend in. You are unique, and you have what the men don't – poise, elegance and astute intuition. Your male colleagues will greatly prize the feminine strengths you bring to the team.

Demonstrate Your Strength Focus on doing what you do best. Let your colleagues pick up where you are weak. Develop your strengths. This way, you'll be in demand for what you do best. Be an invaluable asset to your team.

Be Appreciative and Caring All men like to be appreciated, especially alpha males. Be sincere and genuine when you express your appreciation for their contribution. It's perfectly fine to be caring; that's you being a woman.

Be Flexible You don't have to win every argument. You can gracefully concede. You can also powerfully stand up for what you believe without being obstinate. Being flexible in your responses will allow you to be in control in most situations.

Be Open and Fun Join in the conversation when it's funny, however, set the boundary and maintain it. Express yourself when jokes and comments are unacceptable, then gracefully remove yourself from the scene. When you respect yourself, you'll gain their respect too.



Sharmini Hensen runs her own life coaching practice in Petaling Jaya. Visit www.sharminihensen.com for more information.

FACT FILE

JOB HOPPERS: One in three Malaysians plan to change jobs within the next year, according to a survey by Kelly Global Workforce Index (KGWI).