

As we head into the holiday season, one of life's biggest problems seems to become even more annoying. People will not get off their phones at the dinner table or at parties. But this may solve the problem.

TEASE:

"DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR, OF COURSE IT DOES. PEOPLE WILL NOT GET OFF THEIR PHONE AT THE DINNER TABLE. I'M JAMEY TUCKER, COMING UP..A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM."

TRT 1:16

STANDARD OUTCUE

SUPERS

0-8 Jamey Tucker

9-16 Russ Schaefer/Nation Cyber Security Alliance

ANCHOR INTRO

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON NOW OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY, MOST PEOPLE WILL SPEND MORE TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

BUT IF YOUR FAMILY IS LIKE OTHERS WITH TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS, PARTIES AND DINNERS CAN BE RUINED BY EVERYONE USING THEIR SMARTPHONES AT THE DINNER TABLE. OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER SAYS IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY.

PACKAGE

Sometimes you get fed up: how many times have you wanted to shout "get off your phones!?" But you can't, they're guests. So how about this idea:

"I don't know how your family is, but we have a basket by the door. When people come in, you dump your phone in, and say we're going to have this dinner and actually speak to each other".

Russ Schaefer from the National Cyber Security Alliance told me it works for his family...but maybe you've tried it and it just hasn't worked. You've got people who just won't play along. He suggests, take it a step further.

"use that chance to take a minute and update your system. Chances are iOS 12 is out, some other stuff some other patches. You have all these apps that haven't been updated "

Share your wifi password with everyone by putting a sign near the basket. And ask people to update apps and operating systems.

"While you're having a glass of eggnog or something else, go ahead and click and update those patches. You'll have a phone that's clean and up to date that's serving you in a mindful way."

This will keep people from glancing at their phone every few seconds at the dinner table, or even when everyone is watching the big game on television. Give yourself some time to talk to people in real life, face to face. Imagine that. That's What the Tech?
I'm Jamey Tucker

ANCHOR TAG

SCHAEFER SAYS THIS HAS WORKED IN THE PAST AND HIS FAMILY WILL TRY IT AGAIN ANYTIME THEY HAVE COMPANY AT THEIR HOME.

WEB STORY

Sometimes you just want to yell at everyone to get off their phone. Especially at the dinner table and when the family and guests are gathered together for a holiday party. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. As rude as it is for someone to be on their phone while everyone else is eating or watching the big game, it's even more rude to call them out on it. If that bothers you (and I'll bet it does), here's a solution discovered by Russ Schaefer, director of the National Cyber Security Alliance.

"I don't know how your family is, but we have a basket by the door. When people come in, they dump their phone and say we're going to have this dinner and actually speak to each other."

Maybe you've tried that, but knowing their phone is just sitting in the basket may be too tempting for everyone. Schaefer told me he found that another step usually works.

"Use that chance to take a minute and update your system," he said. "While you're having a glass of eggnog or something else, go ahead and click and update those patches. You have a phone that's clean and up to date that's serving you in a mindful way."

Schaefer told me most people do not update their phone's operating system or apps because when they do, they can't use their phone. It has to restart and the apps won't work until the updates are complete. So, most people don't update apps with all the patches that have been added. By not updating apps, the phone is susceptible to hacks.

He suggests making a sign that displays your home WiFi password. Then asks guests and family members to update their phone while they enjoy dinner.

Does it work? That depends on your family and guests I suppose, but it should. Maybe people will talk face-to-face at the dinner table or even later when everyone is watching the big game on television.