Got a vacation planned in the next few weeks? Chances are, you're going to be looking for and connecting to public wifi networks. How do you know if the one you're using is okay? Facebook has a little known feature that can help.

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ANCHOR INTRO

EVERYONE LIKES TO GET SOMETHING FOR FREE, BUT SOMETIMES FREE ISN'T SUCH A GOOD DEAL.

ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR PRIVACY, YOUR LOCATION AND YOUR ONLINE FILES. OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER SAYS THERE'S A HIDDEN FEATURE IN A POPULAR APP THAT HELPS YOU FIND FREE AND SAFE WI-FI.

PACKAGE

You can find public wifi just about everywhere these days, even in parks! But how do you know if the network you're logging into is legitimate? There's a little known feature in an app you have right now, Facebook, that can help.

You already know that it isn't a good idea to just hop on any public wifi network. You might be logging into the wifi of a hacker disguised as the wifi network of a restaurant. But there's a little known feature in Facebook you've probably never noticed, that shows you who has free wifi and the name of the network and gives you directions to it.

You'll find it using the Facebook app on a mobile device. Tap the more icon, the three lines, at the bottom of the screen. There you'll see "find wi-fi".
To use it, you'll need to give the app permission to use your location. Not just when you're using the Facebook app, but always.
It'll open a map of your location and the nearest public wifi network to you. Other networks are marked. Tap one to get the name, address, directions and to visit the business' Facebook page. You'll be able to see the name of their wifi network too. That's a cool safety measure to keep you from logging into a network that could steal your information.
Where does Facebook get all this? From the business's Facebook page, if they entered their wifi hotspot information.
You can also adjust the map to another area you're going to be visiting. Select the area and search.

This is a feature only available in the Facebook app, you won't be able to find wifi using the Facebook website.

it's a good idea when you visit one of those businesses to ask someone who works there for the name and password of the network, to make sure you're getting on the right one.
That's what the tech? I'm Jamey Tucker

ANCHOR TAG

THE WI-FI FINDER OPTION IS IN THE FACEBOOK APP FOR iPHONES AND ANDROID DEVICES.

WEB STORY

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To use it, you'll need to give the app permission to use your location. Not just when you're using the Facebook app, but always. That may run down your smartphone battery a little faster. You can always change the setting when you're not using it.

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