# What Information Is Hidden on Your Airline Boarding Pass? You Might Be Surprised

October 14, 2015 â€“ Based on a report from Krebs on Security, we should all think twice before tossing that old airline boarding pass in the trash. In fact, from this point forward I wouldnâ€™t even consider doing that. Even though most airlines donâ€™t print everything about you and your trip in plain English on boarding passes, much of that information can apparently be found in the QR or bar codes that do appear on the documents.

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According to Krebs, his investigation into boarding passes began when one of his readers got curious about the information stored in the bar code on a boarding pass that was pictured on Facebook. As it turns out, that bar code contained the ticketholderâ€™s name, frequent flyer number and destination information.

Using that information, the reader was able to gain access to the ticketholderâ€™s online account with the airline â€“ in this case, Lufthansa â€“ and to his Star Alliance account. From there, he was able to see other trips that the ticketholder had scheduled, and could have made itinerary changes and/or cancellations.

If you think about that, itâ€™s pretty frightening. Just imagine a burglar casing your house. If that burglar could gain access to your future travel plans, then heâ€™d know exactly when you wouldnâ€™t be home so that he could commit his burglary with minimal risk of getting caught.

Now, just imagine that you have a wife or a daughter who has attracted a stalker. Do you really want to provide that stalker with a means to avoid running into you?
These are just a couple of plausible scenarios.

If you are flying and have a smart phone, you may want to consider using an electronic boarding pass. That way, you donâ€™t have to worry about a discarded pass falling into the wrong hands. Nor do you have to worry about some airline employee collecting your pass and then having the information on it falling into the wrong hands.

If you do choose to print your boarding pass, then you should seriously consider shredding any portion of it that you are able to keep when boarding. Throwing it in the trash can really isnâ€™t a very good option any more.
byJim Malmberg
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