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Mail Online

Hackers can gain access to any password-protected iPad 2 just by pulling the cover on and off

By [Rob Waugh](#)

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The four-digit password code on Apple's iPads is designed to prevent unwanted eyes viewing your personal data.

But a glitch in iOS 5 could mean that the password lock offers no protection at all.

All the hacker requires is a magnetic Smart Cover - either yours, or if you don't use Apple's magnetic screen protector, they can bring their own.



Apple unveiled the Smart Cover as a key feature of the upgraded iPad 2 - but the magnetic cover can provide hackers with a 'back door' into your device

Smart Cover is magnetic, and the iPad's screen 'senses' whether it's closed or open, and turns on accordingly.

It's this automatic 'On' button that can be used to gain access to locked iPad 2s without knowing the password.

In a blog post, Mac fan site 9to5Mac demonstrated that it is possible to gain access to applications such as Mail or messaging simply by turning the targeted iPad off, closing and then opening the Smart Cover, then pressing cancel.

The hack 'fools' iPad into opening up without requiring a password.



The late Apple founder Steve Jobs introduces the new Smart Covers at an event earlier this year. The magnetic protectors turn on iPad automatically - a 'security hole' that could let hackers gain access

At present, the hack is only confirmed to work with the new iOS 5, released last week, but other reports state that it also works on older devices running iOS 4.

At that point, the hacker will not have full access to the device, but will be able to access the last application you had open before you set the lock.

For many users, that application will be Mail - which gives potential attackers access to a huge amount of private information often including bank details and addresses, searchable via the application.

At present, Apple hasn't offered an official 'fix' for the glitch, but 9to5Mac suggests that users can disable Smart Cover unlocking via the Settings menu to ensure that their device is secure.

The site's demo video of the hack is below.

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I have just tried this on my pad which is in a non apple case and it does no work.

- The Older I Get The Better It WAS, Bewdley. Worcestershire, 25/10/2011 07:01

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@Colin (53), Aberdeenshire It has nothing whatsoever to do with 'Apple'. As I mentioned before, if you can get into a position where you have physical access to a computer - ANY computer - then you can gain administrator access. This is true for the cheapest PC, and the most expensive enterprise server on the planet. This is why webserver etc. are kept in dedicated datacentres with high security preventing anyone getting near the machines.