

Protect Your Personal Information

Smartphones, laptops, tablets, and desktop computers can link us to our personal information. Financial accounts and healthcare information are just a click away. Here are a few tips to help you keep your identity safe.

Security at Home

Your Wi-Fi router is the first line of defense for your home's Internet network. To make sure no one is accessing your Wi-Fi, you should occasionally change the router's administrator login, enable encryption and change default passwords. If you want to share your Wi-Fi with guests, you can do that safely by providing them with guest network access.

Viruses and malware are a constant threat. Investing in antivirus and anti-malware software is a necessary expense to protect your identity and personal information.

Sensitive information, such as your social security number, confidential business, bank information, medical records and tax returns should never be sent over email or other communication channels without encryption.

Password Protection

Security experts suggest you memorize the most important passwords and write the rest down, keeping them in a safe place. Keep this data secure, and do not keep your account numbers and passwords in the same place. If you keep a list of passwords on your phone, laptop or even in the cloud, avoid naming that file "Passwords."

Experts recommend passwords with a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. Two-factor authentication offers an extra layer of security by requiring a password, a username, as well as something only the user has access to when logging in. Two-factor authentication can be added to your social media accounts, mobile phones, email and bank accounts.

Beware of Your Surroundings

Whether you are sitting in a coffee shop, a shared workspace, or on public transportation for your daily commute, keep in mind there are individuals who may be listening to your conversations or are able to see your screens. Do not read your credit card number or discuss your bank account or other personal information in a public setting.

Cyber thieves have created information-skimming devices that are attached to ATMs, gas pumps and other POS devices. Once you enter your PIN, thieves have access to everything they need to clean out your bank account. Watch out for any card-swiping devices that look suspicious.



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