

Don't become the weakest link. Understanding the cybercriminal.



Internet Safety
Starts with **you.**



You couldn't spot a cybercriminal in the street and increasingly, you can't spot one online either as they think of cleverer and more devious and convincing ways to defraud us. They are generally motivated by money, although to some, successfully hacking into a big company represents a badge of honour. Whatever their motives, they rarely have any scruples about who they defraud and how much heartache they cause.

Most online crime could be avoided if we all exercised more care in our use of the internet, whether we're using email, social media, holiday booking sites, online dating or the many other things we do online. We've assembled some top tips to start you off.



Top tips to avoid becoming a victim of cybercrime

- Choose, use and protect passwords carefully, and use a different one for every online account.
- Look after your mobile devices. Don't leave them unattended in public places, and protect them with a PIN or passcode.
- Ensure you always have internet security software loaded on computers and a similar app on your mobile devices, and that this is kept updated and switched on. Smartphones and tablets can get compromised as much as computers.
- Never use Wi-Fi hotspots in places like cafés, bars and hotel rooms for doing anything confidential online. Instead, use 3G or 4G or if it's for work, a VPN (virtual private network).
- Never reveal too much personal or financial information in emails, on social networking and dating sites and in person.
- Use different login details for every online account, and never reveal them to anybody.
- Always consider that online or on the phone, people aren't always who they claim to be.
- Don't click on links in emails, posts, tweets or texts – and don't open attachments – if the source isn't 100% known and trustworthy, or it seems strange that you'd be receiving them.
- Never pay for anything by direct bank transfer – including goods, services, tickets, travel and holidays – unless it's to someone you know personally and is reputable.
- Take your time and think twice, because everything may not be as it seems.
- Remember that if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

For more insight into the activities of cybercriminals – and how to protect yourself please visit www.getsafeonline.org and click 'Protecting Yourself'

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Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by a number of government departments, law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.

Our advice is free, authoritative, informative, impartial and easy to follow.

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