

Safe and secure social networking



Internet Safety
Starts with **you.**



Whether it's Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Pinterest or one of the multitude of sites and apps springing up daily, many of us take social networking for granted.

But like many other things we do online, social networking does have drawbacks – partly because of its vast, often unknown audiences and sometimes caused by comments or images that are posted, either by ourselves or other people.

For example, clicking on links in posts or tweets which can lead to hoax pages and websites designed to defraud you or steal your identity. Not choosing safe passwords, or careless use of passwords, can lead to your account being hacked. You could become the object of bullying, trolling or other forms of online abuse. Or your own careless or ill-considered posts could return to haunt you or others.

Top tips for safe and responsible social networking

- Be careful about what information or opinions – either personal or work-related – that you reveal either in your profile or in your posts / tweets.
- Use strong passwords, keep them secure and don't use the same one for more than one online account.
- Remember that what goes online stays online ... even if you withdraw it promptly.
- Learn how to use sites correctly, including privacy features and who you link with.
- Guard against phishing, vishing (voice phishing) and other social engineering activity aimed at gleaning passwords.
- Ensure you have effective and updated internet security software or an app running on your device before going online.
- Report abuse and actual or attempted fraud. If it's at work, report it via the Security Zone.

For more information on safe use of email, please visit www.getsafeonline.org, and click 'Social Networking'

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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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