

4. Look after your mobile devices. Don't leave them unattended in public places, and protect them with a PIN or passcode/fingerprint.

Tactical advice: use a Kensington lock to secure laptops.

5. Never reveal too much personal or financial information in emails, on social networking and dating sites, or in person. You never know who might see it, or use it.

Tactical advice: do you need to advertise your date of birth, telephone number, or email. Always dispose of sensitive documents, bills, or addressed letters by shredding or by confidential waste.

6. Always consider that online or on the phone, people aren't always who they claim to be. Fake emails and phone calls are a favourite way for fraudsters to approach their victims.

Tactical advice: double check using online research and by calling companies using their published number.

7. 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 if it seems strange you'd be receiving them. Clicking on a bad link could upload malicious software, which could result in data loss, financial loss or even lock you out of your device.

Tactical advice: Do not open if unsure of a link. Always go to your bank or other company's homepage via your browser - not via an email link.

8. Never pay for anything by direct bank transfer - including goods, services, tickets, travel and holidays - unless it's to someone you know personally who is reputable.

Tactical advice: Credit cards offer greater protection than most other payment methods.

9. 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.

10. For free expert advice about all aspects of staying safe online, visit: www.getsafeonline.org.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CYBER CRIME



OUR TOP TEN TIPS

HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY

If you're new to the internet, or already use it and like to take advantage of the huge variety of things it can do to make life easier, we'd like to help you to stay safe online.

Here are our top ten tips to help you to protect yourself, your money, your identity and your devices:

1. Choose, use and protect your passwords carefully, and use a different one for every online account in case one or more get hacked.

Tactical advice: do not use names or dictionary words. Do use at least 8 digits, with a mix of upper & lower case letters and numbers. Ensure your email password is strong - if compromised, it could be used to reset or change all your passwords.

2. Ensure you always have internet security software loaded on computers and a similar app on your mobile devices, kept updated and switched on. Remember that smartphones and tablets can get compromised as much as computers.

Tactical advice: Use up to date antivirus and firewalls. If an application has provided an update to patch a known threat, then a hacker may be able to gain entry to your device if you do not update - So update regularly.

3. Don't assume Wi-Fi hotspots in places like cafes or hotels are secure - never use them to do anything confidential online. Instead, use 3G, 4G or a VPN (virtual private network).
Tactical advice: Turn off your Wi-Fi for over an hour once a week to ensure a new Mac address is allocated; ensure your home Wi-Fi has a strong password security code.

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