

Top 10 ways to protect your privacy online

1. Create a strong password that is not easily guessed

- Keep passwords simpler, long, and memorable
- User random or not-attributable phrases
- Longer and more random is better
- Typical English words work fine
- Change every 60-120 days
- Do not reuse passwords
- Avoid reusing passwords across multiple accounts

2. Change privacy settings

- Smart phone privacy
 - Limit access to location services
 - Do not let apps share data
 - Enable privacy settings on apps
 - Be careful with social logins
- Web browser privacy
 - Located in browser under tools or preferences settings
 - Limit cookies
 - Clear cache and browser history regularly
 - Use private browsing when necessary

3. Research suspicious websites or files before visiting/installing

- <https://www.virustotal.com> is a great place to check for malware

4. Research Apps before installing

- Some apps can contain malware
- Check the ratings and reviews of apps on the app store or play store before installing

5. Avoid open Wi-Fi connections

- If you must use a public WiFi, then be careful of what you do on it
- Do not enter any personal information or bank information on an open Wi-Fi

6. Disable old accounts

- If you have any old accounts with private information, delete or disable them

7. Keep your OS updated

- While it is a pain to update your phone or computer, the updates usually provide needed security updates

8. Turn off Bluetooth when you are not using it

- Some malicious software can exploit your Bluetooth settings and make it open to any passerby

9. Use device passwords

- This will prevent anyone walking by from picking up your device and accessing personal information

10. Use a VPN

- Extends a private network across a public network enabling users to send and receive data across shared or public networks as if their computing devices were directly connected within the private network

- Can join a system to a private network from a less trusted zone
- Typically uses encryption to prevent eavesdropping