

Many of us are spending more time at home again and heading into the Holiday season, so it's important to remember that the basics of security are not just for your work life, but for your home life too.



Use these basic security steps to help keep you safe:

- Lock up your computer when you step away.
- Use long and strong passwords and change them frequently.
- When shopping online, look for the "https" in the title bar (that "s" stands for secure). If you don't see the "s," don't shop on that site.
- To check a web link, hover over the link with your cursor (be sure not to click). It's a bad sign if the two URLs don't match.
- Pay attention when typing URLs into your browser. If you misspell a web address, you could end up on an infected website.
- Use Anti-virus software to help identify and block viruses, and be sure to keep it updated.

Use these tips to secure your connected devices:

- **Secure your Wi-Fi network.** Your home's wireless router is the primary entrance for cybercriminals to access all of your connected devices. Protect it, and all your digital devices, by changing the factory-set default password and username.
- **Enable stronger authentication** for an extra layer of security beyond the password available on your email, social media, and especially your financial accounts. Stronger authentication, like multi-factor, helps verify that a user has authorized access to online accounts, keeping the bad guys out.
- **Keep a clean machine.** Keep your software up to date and install updates for apps and your device's operating systems as soon as they are available, preventing attackers from taking advantage of known

vulnerabilities that these updates correct.

- **Know your apps.** Be sure to review and understand the details of an app before downloading and installing it, and verify it's from a reputable company. Watch for apps that request access to your location that may not need it and personal information that they don't need, then don't provide it. Delete any old or unused apps to increase your security.
- **Consider what you share.** Limit the personal information you share about yourself, limit your online social networks to the people you know in real life, and set your privacy preferences to the strictest settings.

Use these basic and simple tips to help keep you safe and worry-free to enjoy your digital home, not just for the holidays, but all year long.