

Cybersecurity Reminders

KEEP PRIVATE DATA SAFE &
SECURE ONLINE



A [Federal Trade Commission report](#) indicated that of the 3 million, identity theft and fraud related cases reported in 2018, 1.4 million were fraud related resulting in approximately \$1.48 billion in losses. That is nearly one reported case for every two people in the U.S.!

It seems you cannot turn around without someone with a mobile device in his or her hands. We are constantly connected and online. It is quite amazing that we have the world at our fingertips. This convenience comes with a price, the risk of exposing or losing our private data to identity thieves.

How Can I Protect Myself?

- **Trust your feelings.** If something doesn't feel right, it most likely isn't.
- **Think before you click.** Don't open emails or attachments from strangers. Pay attention to email addresses. Check email for improper formatting, noticeable typos, grammatical errors, and fake email signatures.
- **Trust but verify, give them a call to confirm they sent you something.** When in doubt, throw it out.
- **Keep your personal information private!** Avoid sharing your name, address, telephone number and other personal information when using the internet.
- **Remember that businesses are obligated to protect your personal information.** They will NEVER ask for this information by email.
- **Remember to protect your mobile devices with passwords or pins.** Passwords should be long and complex.
- **Make sure your profile picture is professional.** For many social media sites, this is public information, regardless of privacy settings.
- **Consider that nothing is ever truly deleted from the internet.** Be thoughtful and think twice before posting something.
- **Check your privacy settings on social media sites.** Most will provide you with the ability to secure your account and limit access to your personal information. This will prevent just anyone from gathering information on you.
- **Be careful whom you befriend on social media.** Just because a mutual friend of Uncle Joe wants to befriend you, does not make them trustworthy. Only add people you personally know or have met before.
- **Be wary of public Wi-Fi.** Public Wi-Fi is NOT secure. Do not use public Wi-Fi to log into online banking or to make any purchase. Public Wi-Fi should be used for non-financial, non-personal research. Save the purchases and banking for when you are on a secure network.
- **Always block your screen and keyboard when entering in passwords** to prevent someone from "shoulder surfing" your account information.