

## Cybersecurity: Keeping Yourself Safe Online

In today's digital age, staying safe online is more important than ever. Here are some easy tips to help you protect your personal information and stay secure:

### 1. Create Strong Passwords

Use passwords that are hard to guess. Combine letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using the same password for different accounts. A password manager can help you keep track of them. For example, instead of using "password123," try something like "P@ssw0rd!23".

### 2. Use Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

Two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security. Besides your password, you'll need a second form of verification, like a code sent to your phone. This makes it much harder for someone to access your accounts, even if they know your password.

### 3. Keep Your Software Updated

Regularly update your computer, phone, and apps. Updates often include security fixes that protect you from new threats. Set your devices to update automatically so you don't miss any important updates.

### 4. Watch Out for Phishing Scams

Phishing scams try to trick you into giving away personal information. Be cautious of emails or messages asking for sensitive info. Verify the source before clicking on links or downloading attachments. For example, if you receive an email from your bank asking for your password, call the bank directly to confirm it's legitimate.

### 5. Use Secure Websites

When browsing, make sure the websites you visit use HTTPS (look for a padlock icon in the address bar). This means the connection is secure. Avoid using public Wi-Fi for sensitive activities like online banking. If you must use public Wi-Fi, consider using a Virtual Private Network (VPN) for extra security.

### 6. Backup Your Data

Regularly back up important files to an external hard drive or cloud storage. This way, you can recover your data if something goes wrong, like a cyberattack or hardware failure. Make it a habit to back up your data at least once a week.

## **7. Stay Informed**

Learn about the latest cybersecurity threats and how to protect yourself. Share this knowledge with friends and family to help them stay safe too. Follow reputable sources like cybersecurity blogs, news sites, and official government advisories.

## **8. Raise Awareness**

Help customers and investors understand cybersecurity risks. Encourage them to stay informed and take steps to protect themselves. Provide regular updates and educational materials to keep them aware of potential threats and best practices.

## **9. Report Phishing**

Encourage people to report phishing emails and websites. Take action to address these reports and prevent future incidents. Many companies and organizations have dedicated teams to handle these reports and take down malicious sites.

## **10. Don't Share Your Credentials**

Remind everyone not to share their login details, passwords, or one-time passwords (OTPs) with anyone. Explain the risks and potential consequences, like unauthorized access and financial loss. Emphasize that legitimate organizations will never ask for this information via email or phone.

By following these simple tips, you can reduce the risk of cyber threats and keep your digital life safe. Remember, staying safe online is an ongoing process, so always stay vigilant.