



Cybersecurity has never been more important than it is now. As we spend more time online, we're often creating and sharing more of our personal data. And if this data falls into the wrong hands, private and financial information could be at risk. So, for businesses and individuals alike, protecting sensitive data is critical.

If you follow tech news, you will have noticed a large focus on privacy and cybersecurity recently. Major companies like Google and Facebook have made headlines for their privacy practices. The way organizations handle data matters. And unfortunately, there have been numerous data breaches already year.

If a data breach affects your personal data, private information is no longer private. Hackers might be able to get their hands on data like your Social Security number or banking information. One of the most common outcomes from data breaches is identity theft. So, what can you do to keep your data safe and out of the wrong hands? Well, here are a few tips to help keep you safe!

- 1. Be Cautious of Links:** Links in emails are a common tool used by hackers to trick individuals into giving up their secure information. This is often in the form of banking statements, flight reservations, password recovery emails, and more. So, be aware of the links in your emails. If something looks suspicious, don't click on it. In fact, the safest bet is to visit a provider's site directly as opposed to using an email link.
- 2. Vary Your Passwords:** Although it's easier to remember a single password for all your different accounts, it's not the most secure. The best practice is to vary your password for every different site and account you use. This way, if a company you use gets breached, those stolen credentials won't work on other sites. If you're wondering how you would possibly remember all those passwords, you're not alone.
- 3. Use a Password Manager:** A password manager is a software or program that keeps all your passwords in one place. You have one "master key" password to unlock access to these passwords. With a password manager, you won't have to worry about remembering each of your passwords. It will also keep you from having to write passwords down (which you should never do!) LastPass, KeePass, Dashlane, 1Password, and Roboform are all good programs. Many offer free versions!

