

Cybersecurity Checklist



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Email

- Create a secret email address for your financial accounts and set it up with the strongest possible security settings. 5 min

Passwords

- Create stronger passwords using mnemonic, goal-setting, Diceware, or poetic password approaches. 5 min
- Enable two-step verification on all your key accounts that allow it—financial accounts and personal email. 5 min
- Download a password manager and put it on all your computers and devices.
- Pick a strong master password using the mnemonic or Diceware approach. 15 min

Wi-Fi

- Install a VPN program on your laptop and mobile devices for safe use of free Wi-Fi. 10min
- Change your router's default username and password—don't keep the factory settings. 15 min
- Select the WPA2 or WPA3 encryption setting. 5 min
- Disable the WPS setting on your router. 5 min
- Update your router's firmware. 20 min

Transactions

- Create text or email alerts for your bank accounts and credit cards. 2 min

Credit

- Place a credit freeze on your credit files at all three reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. 20 min
- Request a search on your children's Social Security numbers at all three credit bureaus. 30 min
- Place a credit freeze on your children's credit files at all three reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. 15 min

Software

- Update all software on all devices. 10 min
- Set auto-update for programs that allow it. 5 min
- Run an antivirus software. 5 min

Back-Up

- Back up your data on ALL your devices to at least two locations—the cloud and a physical device. 20 min

Phishing

- Learn how to unmask an email's true sender on the display-name line. 2 min
- Understand how to examine a message for the key signs of fraud. 2 min
- Know how to inspect links in suspicious emails. 2 min
- Recognize the danger of opening any unsolicited email attachment. 2 min

Devices

- Create passcodes for your smartphones and tablets. 2 min
- Activate the Find My iPhone or Locate My Phone app in case your device becomes lost or stolen. 1 min
- Add your emergency contact information to your devices. 1 min

Social Media

- Review and strengthen your social media privacy settings. 10 min
- Reexamine your "friends" to ensure you're still comfortable sharing with them. 5 min

CYBERSECUTIY ACTION PLAN

I commit to taking the following steps to boost my cybersecurity by this date: ___/___/___

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____