



Online Shopping Tips

In the rush to get our holiday shopping done, it's very easy to take shortcuts that could put you at risk. Along with the tips below, be sure to always keep your anti-virus, computer and phone apps updated.

Never give out your password.

It should be an automatic red flag if someone asks for your password. Nobody from an online store, delivery service or other group will ever ask.

Avoid sketchy sites and look for the lock.

If you're unsure about a site, avoid it. Further, always look for the padlock at the front of the URL assuring you that the site is valid and secure.

Free WIFI.

Don't do it! Everyone likes free, but many of the free hotspots are unsecured or a direct trap for the unsuspecting. Hackers can steal directly from your device and even load malware.

Online Holiday Cards.

These are growing in popularity. If it's not from someone you know or has an odd title, do not open it.

Fake Shipping Emails.

A popular scam going on now are fake emails from shipping companies. If you get one of these, instead of clicking on the links instead go directly to the shippers website and enter the tracking number.

Passwords.

Always, Always, Always use a different password for each site you visit. If one site is compromised, then the hackers now have your password to all the sites. Don't make it easy for them.

Internet Of Things.

This holiday season you will likely get a bunch of new gadgets. Many of these gadgets will connect to the internet. If they do, be sure to change their default password so that only you can control them.

Check your statements.

We should all be doing this anyhow, but be certain to check your banking and credit card statements regularly. If you see something wrong, contact your bank!