

Safer Internet Usage Tips

1. Don't forget to keep your system up to date (e.g. downloading security patches whenever prompted).
2. Think carefully about the passwords that you use. Ensure they're only known to you. To enhance them, use both letters and numbers and consider using other keyboard symbols such as stars, question marks etc. It's really important to use different passwords for any financial transactions and purchases over the internet. Change your passwords every other month or so.
3. Make sure when carrying out financial transactions that the site you are using has a padlock image on the toolbar. Protect your main financial assets by using third party payment providers where possible, Paypal, etc.
4. Always log off password protected sites when you've completed your purchasing transactions.
5. Never open e mail from any unknown sources particularly those with an attachment. Headline read before opening, and don't unconditionally accept that the e-mail is from who it says it is.
6. Use anti-virus software and firewalls.
7. Consider turning your computer and modem off when you have finished using them.
8. Ensure your data is backed up either within the computer system or externally through a storage device.
9. Check your credit rating on a regular basis in order to identify erroneous transactions or possible theft of your identity.
10. Supervise access to computers by children in the family home. It may be best to put the computer or laptop in a communal room. Encourage openness about its use amongst everyone in the house.