

**Cypurr Collective #Cryptoparty**  
**BKPL Info Commons, 9/21/2017**

Safety (digital or not) is a community and personal worry that changes depending on who you are and what you want to protect, from who. Normally, we make plans for how to protect ourselves, but things sometimes happen that we didn't plan for (weird computer behavior—how should we react?

Each of us has different information (websites we visit, bank account info, medical conditions, personal messages) that we would like protect from different people (hackers, friends, the government). Part of good computer practice is figuring out what threats and methods are either beyond our understanding or totally out of our reach, and what we think of those can totally change based on our situation and emotions. And the steps we might want to take can add up to a lot, but it's OK to take them in steps—focus on forming habits, not just installs. And as we, the laws (like net neutrality), and tech change, our old responses will also need to change to match them.

**Steps to Take**

*Protect yourself*

- Make a list of what information or accounts you have that are vulnerable
- Think of people/groups that could take advantage of them
- Research tools they could use

*Protect your computer*

- Update software regularly, to keep up with security patches
- Run regular virus scans
- Watch out for phishing! Don't click on links, attachments, or sites you don't trust or expect (check w/ someone first if they email something weird)

*Protect your browsing*

- Use script/ad blockers (uBlock Origin, Privacy Badger)
- Connect to websites with a secure connection (HTTPS Everywhere)
- Use Tor for browsing (be careful!)

*Protect your accounts*

- Use Diceware to generate strong passwords (4+ words)
- Pick and use a password manager (KeePass, LastPass)
- Set up 2-factor authentication for your accounts (Authy, Google Authenticator)
- Encrypt emails with PGP (be careful!)

**Resources**

- *Security in a Box*, step-by-step security guides for each operating system  
<https://securityinabox.org/>
- *Surveillance Self-Defense*, information on different surveillance threats and the tools that defend against them  
<https://ssd.eff.org/>
- *PrismBreak*, free/open software  
<https://prism-break.org/en/>
- *Cryptoparty*, meet-ups, crypto news  
<https://www.cryptoparty.in/>