

Cypurr Collective #Cryptoparty ***BKPL, 3/4/2018***

Safety (digital or not) is a community and personal worry that changes depending on who you are and what you want to protect. Each of us has different information (websites we visit, bank account info, medical conditions, personal messages) that we only want to share with particular people (friends, doctors, lawyers) and hide from others (hackers, govt. surveillance, trolls). Part of good computer practice is figuring out what threats and methods are either beyond our understanding or totally out of our reach. What that means can change based on both our situation and emotions. 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 technology change, our old responses will also need to change to match them.

Steps to Take

Protect yourself

- Make a list of your vulnerable information or accounts
- Think of who could take advantage
- Research tools they could use

Protect your computer

- Update software regularly, to keep up with security patches
- 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)
- Use regular backups to restore your computer, rather than anti-virus programs, in case it gets infected

Protect your accounts

- Use Diceware to generate strong passwords (4+ words)
- Pick and use a password manager (KeePass, LastPass)
- Use 2-factor authentication (Authy, Google Authenticator)

Protect your browsing / communication

- Use script/ad blockers (uBlock Origin, Privacy Badger)
- Obscure your metadata (<https://exposingtheinvisible.org/>)
- Connect to websites with a secure connection (HTTPS Everywhere)
- Use Tor for browsing (be careful! It's easy to deanonymize yourself)
- Encrypt emails w/ PGP (be careful! Encryption doesn't hide metadata)

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/>