Information Security for Home

You can stop cyber criminals. These security tips will help you protect your accounts, devices, networks and privacy. Share them with your friends and family.

Accounts

Use strong, unique passwords for every account. Long passwords are stronger. Consider making a passphrase. It's easier to remember 4 or 5 words than it is to remember 20 characters.

Password managers create, store, and fill in your passwords for you. BitWarden, Dashlane and LastPass all have fully functional free versions.

Two-Factor authentication protects your account, even if a password is stolen. Visit twofactorauth.org to find instructions on enabling two-factor for all your services.

Devices

Keep your phone and computer up to date. If your software is up to date, most tricks that criminals use will simply not work.

Uninstall apps and software you don't need. Attackers can't mess with software that isn't there.

Backup your files to an external hard drive, a flash drive, or to the cloud. You never know when a device might get a virus, get stolen, or break.

Network

Create a strong password for your home Wi-Fi. Don't use the default ones provided by your ISP or router manufacturer.

Use the "Guest Wi-Fi" feature found on most modern routers. This gives visitors internet access without letting them on your home network.

Check to see what devices are on your Wi-Fi. If you spot something unfamiliar, remove it and change your Wi-Fi password. The manufacturer's website will show you how to access these features on your router.

Privacy

Check privacy settings on your social media services. Make time for a conversation with your parents and kids about this as well.

Communicate with secure messaging apps. Apps like Signal, Telegram, and WhatsApp let you chat privately.

Use a VPN to keep your browsing private from advertisers and your ISP. There are many available. Feature and privacy comparisons at thatoneprivacysite.net can help you decide which is right for you.