Privacy & Security 101

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This topic is a *process.* Nobody has to feel bad or depressed about not being "perfect." There is no finish line to cross and no "one right answer" to any question. Feel good that you moved in a good direction *today!* There are lots of details we can discuss about any item.

Who are you, and who is the threat?

You're a "regular person" who doesn't want ad companies to know all about you.
Regular person who has a stalker or harasser.
Regular person who wants to avoid identity theft.
Regular person who doesn't want malicious software on your device.
You're a person with an opinion, and people are trying to silence you or reveal sensitive information about you.

Basic privacy/security tips

Remember, you don't have to order one of everything on the menu! The column "Me?" is about whether I personally use this tip all the time (+++), some of the time(∼), or currently not at all (o).

Tip	Me?
Mobile	
Set your phone to lock instantly.	+++
Use "Signal" app for secure text messaging.	∼
Beware public wifi.	+++
Look at which apps can track location in the background.	∼
Consider not using "hey Siri," "OK Google," and related.	+++
Maybe don't even use Siri at all?	o
Consider switching off wifi & Bluetooth on your phone until needed.	o
Is iPhone sharing your location? Messages app→someone's name→(i) button	+++
Passwords	
Don't repeat passwords.	∼
Use a really random password (or at least one without obvious meaning).	∼
Two-factor authentication makes it harder to hack you.	∼
Think very hard before giving out any password.	+++
Put some kind of password on most things that will take one (your home wifi).	+++

Tip	Me?
Web	
Don't let the browser store your passwords.	~
Consider a non Chrome browser (at least not signed in).	~
Use Tor browser: browse the Web nearly anonymously.	~
Use non Google web search, e.g. DuckDuckGo.	~
"Checkout as guest" is at least one less account to worry about.	~
Set a Google alert on your name.	o
Sign out of Facebook etc. when you're done.	o
(however, staying signed in may be better than giving browser your password)	
Check your Facebook settings ("friends only").	~
If not using Tor, clear out history & cookies every so often.	o
Mail	
Use a non GMail address.	~
Click wisely (recognize tracking links or phishing, mouse-over your links).	+++
Set e-mail software to *not* auto-download images.	~
Don't give your email address to merchants etc. who ask.	~
Software/general	
Enable auto updates.	~
Use disk encryption.	~
If it's critical and if you can, meet in person & don't depend on technology.	o
Pay in cash, especially for sensitive items.	~

The 99 most common passwords:

If your password is on this list, *change it right now!* Warning: there is
rude language in this list.

123456	password	12345678	qwerty	123456789	12345	1234	111111	1234567
dragon	123123	baseball	abc123	football	monkey	letmein	696969	shadow
master	666666	qwertyuiop	123321	mustang	1234567890	michael	654321	pussy
superman	1qaz2wsx	7777777	fuckyou	121212	000000	qazwsx	123qwe	killer
trustno1	jordan	jennifer	zxcvbnm	asdfgh	hunter		buster	soccer
harley	batman	andrew	tigger	sunshine	iloveyou	fuckme	2000	charlie
robert	thomas	hockey	ranger	daniel	starwars	klaster	112233	george
asshole	computer	michelle	jessica	pepper	1111	zxcvbn	555555	11111111
131313	freedom	777777	pass	fuck	maggie	159753	aaaaaa	ginger
princess	joshua	cheese	amanda	summer	love	ashley	6969	nicole
chelsea	biteme	matthew	access	yankees	987654321	dallas	austin	thunder