

Protect

**your computer,
your information,
your family
and yourself.**

Protect your computer

- Update your computer software**
Keep your operating system and application software up-to-date by accepting to install software manufacturer's updates when prompted.
- Use a firewall**
Configure firewall software to help block unwanted connections to your computer and keep out hackers.
- Use anti-virus software**
Prevent viruses from infecting your computer by installing and regularly updating anti-virus software data files.

Protect your information

- Block spyware attacks**
Prevent others from stealing your passwords and confidential information by installing and updating anti-spyware software.

Protect your information...

Protect remote and wireless network access

Turn off your computer when not in use and, if you use them, set up your wireless and broadband routers to request user identification.

Back up your files

Create and store a copy of your important information and documents offsite to help protect them from loss due to viruses or hardware damage.

Protect yourself

Protect your e-identity

Change your user name and password combinations regularly. Use multiple electronic identities when communicating with those you don't know. Don't have your computer remember passwords.

Be careful with e-mails from unknown senders

Never open or download files or follow links to websites in e-mails from people you don't know.

Browse the Internet safely

Read a website's privacy policies before providing your name, age, street address, e-mail address, phone numbers or other personal information—even when on a secure website.

Seek technical help and report cyber crime

If you need assistance with software maintenance or installation on your computer, call a computer technician. Call local police if you suspect a computer crime, identity theft or commercial scam.

While the Internet has brought many benefits, you should be aware that it also has certain risks. The safeguards and practices mentioned above can enhance your safety as you use and explore the Internet. Please share these Internet safety tips with others.

For more information about protecting yourself from cyber risks, please visit <http://publicsafety.gc.ca/cybersecurity>