Australian Government

Australian Taxation Office

Security tips for individuals

Do you know how valuable you are?

Identity thieves do! Every year thousands of Australians have their identities stolen.

Criminals use stolen personal information to commit crimes to make money. Often leaving their victims with a bad credit rating and impacting their ability to gain finance, run a business or to access government services such as healthcare.

Once your identity is stolen it can take a long time to recover. The ATO, along with leading industry bodies, have created a list of top identity security tips to help keep you and your information safe.

Ensure your passwords are strong and secure, and use multi factor authentication where possible. Regularly change passwords, and do not share them

Ensure all devices have the latest available security updates and run weekly anti-virus and malware scans

Use a spam filter on your email account and do not open any unsolicited messages. Be wary of downloading attachments or opening links in emails you have received, even if they're from a person you know

Secure your wireless network and be careful when using public wireless networks. Avoid transacting online where you are using public or complimentary Wi-Fi

Be vigilant about what you share on social media – keep personal information private and be aware of who you're interacting with

Treat your personal information like cash – don't leave it lying around

Monitor your accounts for unusual activity or transactions

Use a PO Box, or ensure your mail is secure

Do not download programs or open attachments unless you know the program is legitimate

Do not leave your information unattended – secure your electronic devices

More information

If you have been the victim of identity theft, contact iDcare on **1300 432 273**.

More information on identity security is available from:

idcare.org.au

ato.gov.au/identitysecurity

acorn.gov.au

scamwatch.gov.au

Supporting Cyber Security Working Group Associations:

- The Tax Institute
- Tax Practitioners Board
- CPA Australia
- Institute of Public Accountants
- Australian Business Software Industry Association
- Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
- Institute of Certified Bookkeepers

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