



CyberAngels

A program of Guardian Angels
keeping it safe

Protecting Your Privacy

Your online activities (such as posting in newsgroups, signing up for services, or accepting cookies) allow marketers to capture information about you from the websites you visit, and many of them are handing out your data to strangers. Lost privacy cannot be recovered, and the information we share can be used against us.

Nicknames and Profiles

Never use personally identifying information when choosing an e-mail address or profile name: your name, sex, age or birth year, or your location. Instead, choose a "profile name" based on a hobby or other non-identifiable characteristic.

Smart Passwords

Change your password frequently. Create passwords as combination of special characters, numerals and letters. Do not use words in dictionary or personal details as part of your password since these are easier to crack.

Always Log Out

If you are using a public computer and a web-based mail, always be sure to log out of your account. Just directing the browser to a new page doesn't log you out, and leaves your account accessible to anyone else who sits down at that computer.

Read the Fine Print

Always read the privacy policy of a website before you type information into a form or share it with the company. If they don't have a privacy policy listed, don't share your information!

Treat E-mail Like Postcards

Never email personal or financial information, assume that it can be read by third parties.

Free isn't always Free

Be very cautious when downloading "free" programs online. These programs can include spyware, malware or viruses that jeopardize your personal information.

Check for the Lock

When submitting personal information online, always check the URL for <https> and a lock icon in the bottom right corner of your browser.

Know Who You Are Dealing With

Only do business with creditable companies.

Keep Up-to-date

Be sure that your anti-virus program is always up-to-date. Download and install patches (updates) for your operating system, firewall, browser, e-mail client etc.

Additional Resources



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CERT: [Safeguarding Your Data](#)

CERT: [Protecting Your Privacy](#)

CERT: [Choosing and Protecting Passwords](#)

MS-ISAC: [Unintended Information Disclosure](#)

MS-ISAC: [Safeguarding Your Data](#)

MS-ISAC: [How Anonymous Are You?](#)

CERT: [Supplementing Passwords](#)