

Tips & Advice

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Add multi-factor authentication to your logins and increase security

Happy 2022! Although we haven't quite made it to spring yet, it's never too early for some spring cleaning and updates—not just in our homes but also with our online presence. Here are some tips for keeping your devices and online accounts neat and tidy:

- **Update your software** -- Outdated software makes it easier for criminals to break into your computer and other devices. If your software can update automatically, so make sure to set yours to do so. Make sure you apply security patches soon after they are released.
- **Make your password long, strong and complex** -- That means at least ten characters, with a mixture of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Avoid common words, phrases or information in your passwords. Use a phrase instead of a word if you can.
- **Use multi-factor authentication, when available** -- For accounts that support it, multi-factor authentication requires both your password and an additional piece of information to log in. The second piece could be a code generated by an app or a key that's inserted into a computer. This protects your account even if your password is compromised.
- **Make use of anti-malware programs** – Anti-virus and anti-malware programs can help to protect you from potentially malicious files that you may encounter online or in email. Always keep reliable AV/AM programs and firewalls updated and enabled on your devices and networks.
- **Back up your files** --No system is completely secure. Copy your files to an external hard drive or cloud storage. If your computer is attacked by malware, you'll still have access to your files.

For more information on cyber security and scams, please visit the FTC's website: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog>



Member F.D.I.C.

Sources: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2018/10/its-national-cybersecurity-awareness-month>

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