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# FIVE EVERY DAY STEPS TOWARDS ONLINE SAFETY

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Cybersecurity is present in every aspect of our lives, whether it be at home, work, school, or on the go. Regardless of one's technical ability or background, there are simple steps everyone can take to stay safe online.

## SIMPLE TIPS

Protect yourself online and help to make the Internet safer and more secure by following these simple tips from the Stop.Think.Connect.™ Campaign:

- **Enable stronger authentication.** Always enable stronger authentication for an extra layer of security beyond the password that is available on most major email, social media and financial accounts. Stronger authentication (e.g., multi-factor authentication that can use a one-time code texted to a mobile device) helps verify that a user has authorized access to an online account.
- **Make your passwords long & strong.** Use complex passwords with a combination of numbers, symbols, and letters. Use unique passwords for different accounts. Change your passwords regularly, especially if you believe they have been compromised.
- **Keep a clean machine.** Update the security software, operating system, and web browser on all of your Internet-connected devices. Keeping your security software up to date will prevent attackers from taking advantage of known vulnerabilities.
- **When in doubt, throw it out.** Links in email and online posts are often the way cyber criminals compromise your computer. If it looks suspicious (even if you know the source), delete it.
- **Share with care.** Limit the amount of personal information you share online and use privacy settings to avoid sharing information widely.

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Stop.Think.Connect. is a national public awareness campaign aimed at empowering the American public to be safer and more secure online. The Campaign's main objective is to help you become more aware of growing cyber threats and arm you with the tools to protect yourself, your family and your community. For more information visit [www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect).



Homeland  
Security

[www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect)



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