ONLINE GAMING TIPS

Online gaming is a fun and interactive activity for millions of people across the globe. It is also a space where cyber criminals try to ruin your fun by sending malicious links, stealing credentials and payment card information, and much more. Know how to protect yourself and your personal information while gaming online. Following these simple guidelines can prevent problems later.

TAKE-ACTION TIPS

MAKE A LONG, UNIQUE PASSPHRASE
Length trumps complexity. A strong passphrase is a sentence that is at least 12 characters long. Focus on positive sentences or phrases that you like to think about and are easy to remember. And keep them unique. Do not use the same password for gaming accounts that you would use on your banking accounts, for example. Using multiple gaming platforms? Consider using a password manager.

PASSPHRASES AREN'T ENOUGH
Use 2-factor authentication or multi-factor authentication (like biometrics, security keys or a unique, one-time code through an app on your mobile device) on all gaming accounts.

SECURE YOUR PAYMENT DATA
If you need to tie a specific payment method to your account, choose a credit card over a debit card. Credit cards come with more consumer protections than debit cards.

DO YOUR RESEARCH
Mobile gaming makes up approximately 45% of the global games market[1] Just because a game is available on a trusted app store, it doesn't mean it is a safe app to download. Before downloading any new gaming app on your device, make sure it's a legitimate app. Check out the reviews and look it up online before downloading.

1 2019 Newzoo Global Games Market Report

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THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Cyber criminals will often try to entice gamers into clicking links or downloading malicious files by offering cheats, hacks, or other ways to gain an advantage over competitors. Be wary of clicking on links or downloading anything that comes from a stranger or that you were not expecting. If the offer seems too good to be true, chances are it is. Verify the link before clicking it by hovering over it with your cursor to see the link's true destination.

KEEP PERSONAL INFO PERSONAL

Be cautious about how much personal information you provide on gaming account profiles. The more information you post, the easier it may be for a criminal to use that information to steal your identity, access your data, or commit other crimes, such as stalking. Err on the side of sharing less online.
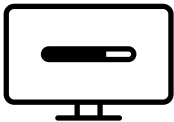
KEEP A CLEAN MACHINE

Keep all software on internet connected devices that you access games on– including personal computers, smartphones and tablets – current to reduce risk of infection from ransomware and malware. Configure your devices to automatically update or to notify you when an update is available. If you're playing an app-based game on a device, make sure your app is updated regularly.

GET SAVVY ABOUT WIFI HOTSPOTS

Public wireless networks and hotspots are not secure, If you're traveling and want to access your gaming to keep yourself entertained, consider using a virtual private network (VPN) or a personal/mobile hotspot to give yourself a secure connection.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ESET: Safe Gaming - How Gamers Can Protect Themselves and Their PCs While Playing Online
https://www.eset.com/au/about/newsroom/press-releases1/eset-blog/safe-gaming-how-gamers-can-protect-themselves-and-their-pcs-while-playing-online/

NCSA: Online Gaming Tips for Kids
https://staysafeonline.org/resource/online-gaming-tips-kids-teens-tweens/