

# Securing your devices

How to get your  
questions answered



## Protect your technology

There have always been risks to being online. Many of us may have managed up until now without really thinking about it. But the more time we spend online, the greater the risk of being exposed to cybercrime. We are learning, working and communicating online, and from home, more than ever before so it is important to take steps to reduce the risks.

This helpsheet gives you a few things to think about for keeping your technology safe. More importantly, it lets you know where you can go to get better informed. Devices can't be completely safe but there's a lot we can do to reduce risks, and measures that can be put in place for recovering data if anything does happen.

You can find information and advice about online behaviour, and helping to keep your child safe on social media and gaming, in our **Online Safety Nutshell**  
[npfs.org.uk/downloads/online-safety](https://npfs.org.uk/downloads/online-safety)



### If you're sharing devices, does each user have their own profile setup?

If not, are you making sure your browser hasn't saved any passwords to online platforms?



### Have you changed all your default passwords? Do you know how to create a secure password?

Most devices connected to the internet require passwords, including printers and home broadband routers.

[ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/three-random-words-or-thinkrandom-o](https://ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/three-random-words-or-thinkrandom-o)



### Do you have anti-virus software on all your devices including smartphones?



### Are you backing up your devices?



### Do you always use the maximum privacy setting on apps and devices?



### Do you know where to go for more information and support?

## Information and resources

These links give you information, advice and practical step-by-step guides for protecting your technology.

- General advice and support on staying safe online:  
[parentclub.scot/articles/online-safety](https://parentclub.scot/articles/online-safety)
- Step-by-step technical guides and resources by age of child  
[internetmatters.org](https://internetmatters.org)
- Practical advice on how to protect yourself and your devices:  
[getsafeonline.org/protecting-your-computer/software-updates](https://getsafeonline.org/protecting-your-computer/software-updates)
- Resources and tools to help schools, parents and children during coronavirus  
[swgfl.org.uk/coronavirus-guidance-and-resources](https://swgfl.org.uk/coronavirus-guidance-and-resources)
- Advice on setting up parental controls to help you keep your child safe online  
[nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls](https://nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls)
- Video conferencing: guidance to help you to use video conferencing securely  
[ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/video-conferencing-new-guidance-for-individuals-and-for-organisations](https://ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/video-conferencing-new-guidance-for-individuals-and-for-organisations)
- Advice for managing the cyber security challenges of home working  
[ncsc.gov.uk/news/home-working-increases-in-response-to-covid-19](https://ncsc.gov.uk/news/home-working-increases-in-response-to-covid-19)
- How-to guide for preventing cybercrime  
[europol.europa.eu/activities-services/public-awareness-and-prevention-guides/make-your-home-cyber-safe-stronghold](https://europol.europa.eu/activities-services/public-awareness-and-prevention-guides/make-your-home-cyber-safe-stronghold)
- What makes a good password  
[ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/three-random-words-or-thinkrandom-o](https://ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/three-random-words-or-thinkrandom-o)

Some of this may sound complicated but there is good advice to help you.





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