

Essex Police Fraud Alert System

23

22nd January 2021

HACK MY INFO? I DON'T THINK SO

As the pandemic has forced more of us to move online for work, shopping and leisure, we need to be vigilant to protect ourselves from hackers and financial loss.

Use 'UPDATES' to help you protect your online accounts:



U **Update regularly**—make sure that your computer and also any phones and tablets you own have the most recent *patches* (updates) for apps, software and operating systems.

P **Passwords**—ensure you have strong and **unique** passwords for each account—yes, that does mean a different password for each account! If you're struggling to keep track, consider using a password manager to store your passwords securely.

D **Download from authorised sources only**—if you have to download or install anything yourself make sure it comes from a trusted source. If not you could download a programme that contains things like *spyware* which will steal your personal data.

A **'Administrator' should not be your default setting**—administrator access should only be used on your computer when installing trusted programmes. If administrator mode is your default setting and you download a malicious programme, hackers can get in and change whatever they want on your device.

T **Turn it off**—in order to ensure that no one can access your device when you're not using it, turn it off when you're done. Also consider logging out of sites once you have finished using them or turning your WiFi off if not using it.

E **Encrypt your data**—*encrypting* (scrambling) your data does not stop it being intercepted, but it does mean that it cannot be read by unauthorised users. Check that websites are secure by looking for the little padlock in the address bar before submitting sensitive information on the internet. You can also research other ways to encrypt your files.

S **Store your data separately**—back up any important data on a USB or external hard drive, and store it away from your computer to keep those copies extra safe!

! If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online at essex.police.uk

