



# Get Safe Online Global24



**The Online Survival Guide, developed for our Get Safe Online Global24 event, takes a back-to-basics look at how we can all help to protect ourselves from online harms, in both our personal and business lives. Please read these tips from our online safety experts, and pass them on.**

## Your top tips for keeping safe online

- Choose, use and protect **passwords** carefully, and use a **different one** for every online account in case one or more get hacked. Try using three random words and strengthening them with numbers, symbols and combinations of upper and lower-case letters.
- Ensure you always have **internet security software** (often called anti-virus/anti-spyware) loaded on computers and a similar app on your mobile devices, and that this is kept updated and switched on. Remember that **smartphones and tablets can get infected** in a similar way to computers.
- Always apply **updates to operating systems and software** on your computer and apps on your mobile devices. Many include vital security updates to avoid hacking or malware.
- Never assume that **Wi-Fi hotspots** in places like cafés, bars and hotel rooms are secure, so don't use them when you're doing anything confidential online. Instead, use your data, a mobile broadband modem (dongle) or if it's for work, a VPN (virtual private network).
- Always consider that online or on the phone, **people aren't always who they claim to be**. Fake emails, texts and phone calls are a favourite way for fraudsters to approach their victims.



## Your top tips for keeping safe online

- **Don't click on links** in emails, posts, tweets or texts – and **don't open attachments** – if the source isn't 100% known and trustworthy, or it seems strange that you'd be receiving them.
- **Never pay for anything by direct bank transfer** – including goods, services, tickets, travel and holidays – unless it's to someone you know personally and is reputable.
- Never reveal too much **personal or financial information** in emails, on social networking and dating sites and in person. You never know who might see it, or use it.
- **Always report** fraud or abuse to the appropriate authorities.

There are also two other golden rules you should remember: **think twice**, because everything may not be as it seems, and **if it seems too good to be true, it probably is**.

