

Simple ways to protect your data that don't take much time

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Over a billion users were affected by data breaches in 2018, and it seems like there are reports of new hacks every few weeks. Can you even use the internet without your information eventually leaking? What's going on with your data? Here are a few tips that don't take a lot of time but can have huge security benefits.



1 Find out if your data has been leaked

First, check if your data has been leaked. The website 'Have I Been Pwned' has a database of information that has been exposed. You can input your info like an email address or old passwords to see if that data has been leaked.

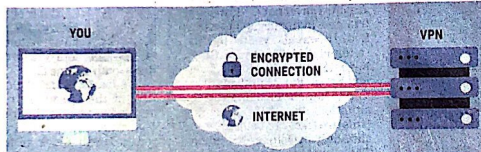


2 Change your passwords

If it has, change those passwords right away.

3 Vary your passwords

Speaking of passwords, using the same password for everything is a terrible idea. If one account is compromised, all your accounts will be at risk.



4 Use a password manager

Instead, use a password manager, like LastPass or 1Password. A password manager securely stores your passwords and can help you generate unique ones that are hard to crack with brute-force hacking.

5 Set up two-factor authentication

Additionally, setting up two-factor authentication for your accounts can prevent someone who has that password from accessing that account. If you're feeling overly vulnerable or paranoid, you can even purchase a device like YubiKey to add even more security to your accounts. Even something as simple as keeping your apps and computer up-to-date can help prevent malicious attacks.

6 Turn off ad tracking

Next, turn off ad tracking when available.

We give a lot of information to online advertisers without even knowing it, but some services give users the option to limit what is being shared.



7 Switch your browser

If you want to go even further, you can use a browser like Firefox Focus, which acts as always-on incognito mode, enabling a private-browsing session that shares and retains less data than traditional browsers.

8 Get a paid VPN

Finally, using a paid VPN can hide your internet traffic and IP address from third

parties. A VPN can also protect your data when you're using public WiFi. It will encrypt your data, making it much more difficult for anyone to steal it from an open network.

9 Monitor your credit

If you think sensitive data has leaked that could allow for fraud or identity theft, be sure to contact your credit card company and bank.