Sholley
INSURANCE AGENCY

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Keep Your Data Safe From Criminals With This Personal Cybersecurity Checklist

Whether it's by online fraud, identity theft, cyber extortion or a data breach, your data could easily end up in the hands of a cybercriminal.

Use this checklist to update your knowledge of best practices and minimize your risk of becoming a victim.

Personal cybersecurity checklist

- Create passwords that are difficult to guess. The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency recommends:
    - Making your passwords at least 16 characters.
    - Using a mix of letters, numbers and symbols.
    - Choosing a unique password for each account and device.
- Change your password immediately if you think your account may have been compromised.
- Use multifactor authentication (MFA). MFA requires users to verify their identity using two or more authentication methods, such as a password and a security code texted to their mobile device.
- Install security software and run automated software updates.
- Install antivirus protection.
- Back up your data regularly.
- Protect your personally identifiable information, like your date of birth and Social Security number.
- Open email attachments only if they come from recognized contacts.
- If you receive an email from someone you know with only a link in the message, don't click on the link until you verify the email with the sender.
- If an email looks fishy, delete it without opening it.
- Ensure home smart devices have security protections in place. Read your owner's manuals and install security updates as recommended.

- Shop only on secure, reputable websites. Secure websites display “https” and/or a padlock icon in the address bar.
- Don’t make online purchases over public Wi-Fi.
- Install mobile device apps from trusted sources only.
- Update the operating systems and apps on your mobile devices frequently to ensure you have the latest fixes and security protections.
- Don’t send sensitive information via text or email.
- Monitor your bank accounts and credit reports.

Protect yourself with cyber insurance

Even the most vigilant and web-savvy people face ongoing risks. One way to protect yourself against many cyber risks is to obtain a personal cyber insurance policy. You may also be able to add cyber protection to your homeowners or renters policy.

Contact us to find the right coverage for your situation.

Your Insurance Team
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