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Essential Tips to Protect Your Identity Online by Joy Mali

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Social networking has always been a big draw for todayâ€™s youth--itâ€™s a fun and interactive way to keep in touch with friends and family and makes it very easy to keep yourself up to date with whatever is going on.

In a single click, pictures, updates and snippets of their lives are now accessible. Whether you live an hour away from them or keeping tabs on their lives from half-way across the globe.

But between Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and other social networking sites, few people realize that signing up for one leaves you vulnerable against identity theft. Pictures and even something as detailing your interests are enough to give perpetrators of this rising online threat enough material to copy your identity and conduct malicious transaction under your name.

Protection against identity theft is therefore imperative; and you can do so by configuring your security settings to ensure your privacy online.

Facebook in particular leaves users most vulnerable to any illicit usage and itâ€™s important to review its latest social network privacy policies. There are dos and donts that can help you safeguard your account against identity theftâ€”but the most basic is recognizing phishing and email scams that try to fish for pertinent information about yourself and your account.

Phishing occurs when someone sends you an email requesting for peronsla information. The perpetrator will usually claim to be an employee of a bank or government office who needs information about your account. Some might even make some sort of monetary offer or inform you that you will be unable to invest in a good opportunity unless you provide personal information. And while itâ€™s difficult to prevent threats against identity theft by yourself, there are options available today that can help protect against it.

Simply using anti-spyware and anti-virus software can really help protect yourself from identity theft; and investing in the software will come back a long way.

There are plenty of other options for online protection, and they vary depending on your particular situation and needs. The important thing to remember is to be cautious of anything that appears suspicious and be wary about giving out information online.

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