

# STOP.THINK.CONNECT.™

## Older Americans Tip Card

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### DID YOU KNOW?

- Those over the age of 65 continue to trail the national average in broadband adoption (35%), however nearly half (48%) of senior citizens are Internet users, regardless of connection type.
- Baby boomers embrace new technologies 20 times faster than members of Gen Y, including social sites, podcasts and blogs. <sup>i</sup>
- Seniors are defrauded at twice the rate of the rest of the population. <sup>ii</sup>

### SIMPLE TIPS

- Install and regularly update firewall, antivirus, and anti-spyware programs.
- Do not open attachments, click links, or respond to email messages from unknown senders or companies that ask for your personal information.
- Do not reveal personally identifiable information such as your full name, telephone number, address, social security number, insurance policy number, credit card information, or even your doctor's name.
- Shred bank and credit card statements before throwing them in the trash; talk to your bank about using passwords and photo identification on credit cards and bank accounts.
- Beware of “free” gifts or prizes; if something is too good to be true, then it probably is.

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU

- *AARP.org*
  - What is a firewall and how do I get one? The AARP provides technology how-to guides designed specifically for you that address computer basics.
- *FBI.gov*
  - For a list of common fraud schemes aimed at older Americans, visit the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at <http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud/seniors/>.
- *SeniorNet.org*
  - SeniorNet offers computer training at senior centers, public libraries, schools, and hospitals as part of their mission to provide older adults computer technology education.

### IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF ONLINE CRIME

- Notify your local authorities and file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://www.ic3.gov>.
- If you have been a victim of identity theft, follow the steps provided by the Federal Trade Commission (<http://www.ftc.gov>) to recover and respond to identity theft.

*Stop.Think.Connect. is a national public awareness campaign aimed at increasing the understanding of cyber threats and empowering the American public to be safer and more secure online. The Campaign's main objective is to help you become more aware of growing cyber threats and arm you with the tools to protect yourself, your family, and your community. For more information visit <http://www.dhs.gov/stophinkconnect> .*

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<sup>i</sup> Consumer Electronics Products and Services Usage Report, Accenture, March 2009

<sup>ii</sup> National Association of Triads, Inc.

