



TIPS FOR BEING SAFE ONLINE

TIP CARD

Americans ages 65 and older are using the Internet more than ever before, so they need to be aware of the associated risks.

DID YOU KNOW?

- As of April 2012, **53% of Americans** age 65 and older use the Internet or email. After several years of very little growth among this age group, this is the first time this statistic is over 50%.¹
- As of February 2012, **one third (34%) of Internet users** age 65 and older use social networking sites such as Facebook, and 18% do so on a typical day.²
- Some 69% of adults ages 65 and older report that they have a mobile phone, up from 57% in May 2010. Even among those currently age 76 and older, **56% report owning a cell phone** of some kind, up from 47% of this generation in 2010.³

SIMPLE TIPS

1. Treat your mobile device like your home or work computer. Keep your operating system software updated, which will improve your devices' ability to fight malware (potentially harmful software). Use strong PINs and passwords to lock access to both the device and sensitive applications.
2. Set strong passwords, combining upper and lowercase letters with numbers and special characters, and don't share them with anyone.
3. Use caution when downloading or clicking on any unknown links.
4. Be cautious about what you receive or read online—if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU

AARP

The AARP provides specifics on internet safety, how to protect your privacy, and the most up-to-date virus protections.

FBI

This is a list of common fraud schemes aimed at older Americans.

¹ Pew Research Internet Study, June 2012

² Pew Research Internet Study, June 2012

³ Pew Research Internet Study, June 2012



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.

Fraud.org

Fraud.org helps protect consumers from being victimized by fraud.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF ONLINE CRIME

Notify your local authorities and file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

If you have been a victim of identity theft, follow the steps provided by the [Federal Trade Commission](#) 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 www.dhs.gov/stophinkconnect.



**Homeland
Security**

www.dhs.gov/stophinkconnect



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