
Cyber Safety 101

Overview

You don't have to be an IT genius to be safe online. You just need a little bit of online "street-smarts" and a small helping of common sense! The following seven golden rules will help you to stay safe.

Cyber Safety Rules

1. Protect your computer

As a minimum every computer should run an anti-virus program and a firewall. Very good anti-virus and firewall software is available free of charge. Visit our website for more info.

2. Have a good password

A good password should contain UPPER and lower case alphabetic characters, numbers, and some special characters. Try using the first letter of every word in a sentence combined with a few "twists" like using the last word in full.

For example: My name is Bob and I like to eat = MniBaIl2e@t.

3. Never share personal details online

One of the biggest online dangers is that criminals can find your personal information like your ID number, date of birth, address, or cell number and use it to steal your identity. Never post either your own, or anyone else's personal information online!

4. Don't trust anyone online

People you meet online are rarely who they say they are. Never believe that someone you met online is telling you the truth. Be especially wary of gifts, "competitions", and other prizes. How can you win if you never entered?

5. Don't break the law

Illegal software, games, or music often contains hidden malware. Why would someone go through all the effort to crack the copy protection on a file if there is nothing in it for them?

6. Don't be a bully

Everything you post online stays there forever, even if you delete it. Do you really want the people you are going to work for one day to know how nasty you were to someone else today?

7. Trust someone

It is a good idea to have at least one adult you can trust who knows who you are talking to online and what you do when you are online. This could be a parent, uncle, aunt, teacher, or even a brother or sister.

Need more info?

We are very willing to help you meet your cyber safety needs. Please let us know what your needs are and we'll do our best to assist.

Contact the Cyber Security research unit at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University directly:



cyberaware@nmmu.ac.za

Or email the South African Cyber Security Academic Alliance:



info@cyberaware.org.za

Our Website

For more information visit www.cyberaware.org.za