



Tips to avoid hackers gaining access to your emails

It is a fact that many frauds can be traced back to hackers being able to gain access to your email account and therefore read your messages. A worrying thought especially given the type of sensitive information people include in their email messages; such as passwords and bank account details.

The following tips will help reduce the risk;

Consider using different emails for different purposes

It is a good idea to consider using different email accounts for different purposes such as work, personal, online shopping etc. This spreads the risk and will also help you figure out what precisely may have fallen into the wrong hands if one of them is hacked.

Take advantage of Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

Enabling 2FA is one of the best ways to make sure your accounts don't get hacked. 2FA is a feature that asks for more than just your password. It requires both "something you know" (like a password) and "something you have" (like your phone). Most email suppliers provide this feature and have step by step instructions on how to install it.

Watch out for suspicious emails and use anti-virus

If you receive an email from a sender you don't recognise, don't click on any links or download any attachments. Hackers will often try to trick you into revealing your password or downloading a virus onto your device to gain access to your account. Additionally have anti-virus installed on all your devices and keep it up to date.

Be careful when using public Wi-Fi and shared computers

Avoid logging into your email account from a public computer (e.g.. at a hotel, internet cafe) as it could be infected with spyware. Additionally don't connect to unsecured public Wi-fi, use mobile data services such as 4G to access your accounts instead.

Have a secure password

Passwords are your first defence against hackers. For a secure password you should use three words and include a symbol, upper/lower case letters and numbers. Remember the more complex and unique to you your password is, the harder it is to crack.

Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) for extra security

Use a trusted VPN service in order to secure your web traffic. By using a VPN you'll be encrypting all of your data that passes through the network. Find out the benefits of running a VPN on your laptop and smartphone.

If the unfortunate does happen and your email does get hacked, change your password immediately, run an anti-virus scan on your device