

Advanced Browsing: Privacy and Security on the Web



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Privacy vs. Security

Eric Bergeron: “**Privacy** is about informational self determination-- the ability to decide what information about you goes where...

Security offers the ability to be confident that those decisions are respected.”



Your Info: What, Who, Why?

- IP Address
- Searches
 - date/time
 - browser
 - length
- Used by...
 - companies
 - organizations
 - websites
 - government
- For...
 - ads
 - surveillance
 - site improvements



Searching Safely

Privacy

Privacy Badger

www.eff.org/privacybadger

Ad Blocking

uBlock Origin

Private Browsing

ctrl + shift + p (Firefox) or ctrl + shift + n (Chrome)

Security

HTTPS

www.eff.org/https-everywhere

Managing Accounts

Unsubscribe from unwanted emails

unrollme.com

Find instructions on deleting accounts you no longer use

accountkiller.com

Passwords: Best Practices

- passPHRASE: long, complex, easy to remember
- diversify: different passwords for different accounts
- change often: keep 'em guessing!
- convenience vs. security: to store or not to store?
- avoiding web/email scams



Handouts

Advanced Browsing: Password Best Practices

Tips to Keep Your Accounts Safe with Strong Passwords

1. If it's in the dictionary, it's not a good password! Hackers can use software that automatically tries every word in a dictionary file. Instead, use a **combination of numbers, symbols, and letters** (varying caps and lower-case). Make passwords sufficiently long so that they will be difficult to crack. A **minimum of six characters**, preferably eight, should be a rule of thumb.
2. **Never use personal information** as passwords. Phishers can easily guess the names of friends, kids, pets, and other personal information — including birth dates and phone numbers.
3. Consider using a **passphrase** — three or more unrelated words strung together. This makes your password exponentially harder for hackers to crack.
4. If you use the same password across several accounts, they could all be compromised. For essential accounts like bank, medical, and email, **use passwords you don't use anywhere else**. For less critical accounts, you can use a few passwords for different types of accounts, but...
5. **Change your passwords** periodically. Every month or two is usually often enough. Don't reuse the same passwords over and over again.
6. **Never tell someone your password** over the phone. Companies never contact their customers and ask for passwords over the phone. Crackers pose as tech support personnel from an ISP and obtain passwords from unwitting customers.
7. Consider a **password book**. Keep a nondescript notebook with your most important passwords and hide it in plain sight.

more at <https://itservices.uchicago.edu/page/good-password-practices>
and <http://www.csus.edu/irt/is-archive/guidelines/passphrase.html>



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Advanced Browsing: Additional Resources

Searching Privately at Home

The **Privacy Badger extension** (a.k.a. plugin) blocks trackers.

- Information & Installation: <https://www.eff.org/privacybadger>

The **uBlock Origin extension** (a.k.a. plugin) blocks ads.

- Background Information: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UBlock>
- For Firefox: <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/ublock-origin/>
- For Chrome: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/ublock-origin/cjpalhdlnbpafiamejdnhcphjbkeiagm>

Searching Privately on Public Computers

Use these **shortcuts** when opening a browser to initiate a private browsing session on public computers at libraries, community centers, and internet cafes.

- Firefox: ctrl + shift + p
- Chrome: ctrl + shift + n

Security

The **HTTPS Everywhere extension** (a.k.a. plugin) adds a layer of security (SSL) to websites, encrypting communications with many websites.

- Information & Installation: <https://www.eff.org/https-everywhere>

Managing Accounts

- Unsubscribe from unwanted emails: <https://unroll.me/>
- Find instructions on deleting accounts you no longer want to use: <https://www.accountkiller.com/en/>

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Please fill out a survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/miwebclass>