Ultimate Checklist to Protect Your Family From Scams

With so many things requiring the internet, you and your family can be targeted by hackers and scammers who use these devices to steal your information and spy on you.

Checklist for Parents

Things You Should Do

- ✅ Keep all devices (computers, phones, and tablets) and apps up to date.
- ✅ Secure your internet connection—use a strong password.
- ✅ Use firewalls and antivirus software.
- ✅ Download apps from trusted sources only.
- ✅ Visit secure websites that start with https:// only.
- ✅ Use a virtual private network (VPN).
- ✅ Use parental controls on your kids' devices and your shared accounts (e.g., streaming accounts).
- ✅ Educate your family on red flags of scams and how to protect themselves.
- ✅ Add all phone numbers to the Do Not Call Registry.
- ✅ Install spam call blockers on all phones.
- ✅ Set parental controls to limit purchases and time spent on games.
- ✅ Make sure gaming consoles have up-to-date software.

Things to Avoid

- ❌ Don't let your kids download apps or make in-app purchases.
- ❌ Don't allow your kids to use peer-to-peer networks.
- ❌ Don't let your kids download and play games without your consent.

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Checklist for Kids & Teens

Things You Should Do

- ✅ Ask permission from your parents before:
  - Downloading apps or games.
  - Entering your information on websites.
  - Giving anyone your personal information on the phone.
  - Making in-app purchases.
- ✅ Visit secure websites that start with https:// only.
- ✅ Use spam call blockers.
- ✅ Keep your social media profiles private.
- ✅ Only connect with people that you know and trust.
- ✅ Leave emails in your Junk Mail/Spam folder alone.
- ✅ Make sure emails are legitimate by looking at:
  - Links and buttons—do they go to a legitimate website?
  - The sender's email address—does it seem legit?
- ✅ Only communicate with people you know.
- ✅ Turn off or cover your webcam when you're not using it.

Things to Avoid

- ❌ Don't give your personal information:
  - To anyone you don't know.
  - On an online website.
  - Over the phone.
- ❌ Don't use public WiFi.
- ❌ Don't pick up phone calls from numbers you don't know.
- ❌ Don't use peer-to-peer networks.
- ❌ **On social media:**
  - Don't make your profile public.
  - Don't share your location publicly.
  - Don't share sensitive information in your posts.
  - Don't respond to people that you don't know.
- ❌ **With emails:**
  - Don't open emails in your Spam or Junk Mail.
  - Don't click on links in emails if you're unsure who it's from.
  - Don't download attachments in emails unless you know the person sending them to you.
- ❌ **When gaming online:**
  - Don't click on links sent to you (especially if they come from strangers).
  - Don't talk about anything personal.
  - Don't engage with anyone you don't know

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