

7 TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY

- 1. Create strong passwords.** Be original and use more than one word, swap out letters for numbers or other characters (such as 3 for E or ! or i) and vary capitalization.
- 2. Watch out for phishing scams.** Fake emails can look real, always be cautious when something doesn't seem right. If you're not sure of the validity — email the requester directly and confirm before sending files or clicking on links.
- 3. Avoid over-sharing online.** Social media isn't private, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn have all had massive data breaches in recent years — be mindful of what share and keep your privacy settings locked down.
- 4. Use IT best practices at home.** Although everyone hates getting a forced update, make sure to stay current with your operating system and security patches and be sure to have an active anti-virus software running in the background.
- 5. Store and transfer data cautiously.** Encrypt flash drives or files — think about what would happen if they were left on a plane or fell into the wrong hands.
- 6. Eliminate the paper trail.** Shred any papers with account information, social security numbers and other identifying information, along with credit card offers, bank courtesy checks and documents with your signature.
- 7. Monitor your accounts.** Keep a close eye on your accounts, look for suspicious activity and stay vigilant.

ABOUT SONTIQ

Sontiq, headquartered in Nottingham, MD, is a high-tech security and identity protection company arming businesses and consumers with award-winning products built to protect what matters most. Sontiq's brands, **EZShield** and **IdentityForce**, provide a full range of identity monitoring, restoration, and response products and services that empower customers to be less vulnerable to the financial and emotional consequences of identity theft and cybercrimes. Learn more at www.sontiq.com or engage with us on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, **LinkedIn**, or **YouTube**.



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