

He's Making A List And Checking It Twice...



Update all your devices: Before going online make sure you have updated and patched your browser, operating system, and all of your apps. The regular updates usually include security patches.



Buy from who you know: Do all of your shopping through established sites and never buy from sites that suddenly appeared with great deals.



If it's too good to be true it probably is: Not all great deals are scams but if a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is, particularly if it's an amazing offer on a brand new product.



Shop secure sites: Before you purchase anything make sure there is a closed padlock on your web browser's address bar or a URL address that begins with `shhttp` or `https`. This indicates that the store is encrypted or secured.



Think before you click: Avoid URGENT deals that arrive in unsolicited emails or look like they're from friends on social networking sites. If there is any doubt, delete it.



Only use secure Wi-Fi: Don't shop on an unsecured network (a connection that doesn't require a password for access). Using the direct web access on your phone is safer than an unsecured wireless network when on your mobile device.



Pay with a credit card: Credit cards are generally the safest option allowing you to contest purchases and they usually do not hold you liable for fraudulent charges.



Do not give away too much information: If a website is asking for too much information, like SSN or account information, abandon the transaction.



Don't expect money for answering questions: If a window pops up promising you cash or gift cards just for answering a simple survey like "Do you use the internet?" close it and move on.



Check your statements after the holidays: If you got compromised over the holidays the first sign will usually be in a credit card statement. Scan your statements for unusual charges and report them immediately.



Secure all your devices: Password protect your laptop, tablet, and smart phone and set the timer to auto lock after a short period of time. This will make it more difficult for any information to be stolen.



Backup your data: While it would be horrible to lose a device, it will be a lot less stressful if you know that you had backups of all your important documents and files in a secure place to restore them from.

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