

Online gaming for families and individuals

How to enjoy online gaming securely by following just a few tips

Many people love playing games online. In fact, an [estimated 1.2 billion of us](#) are regularly logging on, signing up and playing online.

Unfortunately, whenever money or personal data is changing hands online, criminals can be watching, looking for some way to turn the situation to their advantage.

The advice outlined below is intended to help safeguard you and your personal data when gaming. Whether you use a PC, console, phone or tablet, these steps will help prevent you falling victim to a criminal. This will leave you free to focus on enjoying the game.

+ Show all

1. Secure your devices

Show

2. Account protection

Show

3. Protect your privacy

Show

4. Use official sources or stores

Hide

Whatever device you are using to play games, you should always attempt to verify the source of anything you install. The easiest way to do this is to use official sources and stores.

Cyber attackers often attempt to circumvent in-game security measures by persuading you to do something outside of the game itself. For example, a player you don't know may suggest that you install an 'upgrade' and supply a link for the download. The offer could also come in the form of

a well crafted phishing email, promising some kind of freebie related to a game you enjoy.

By relying on the official sources for all your software you are much less likely to accidentally install malware on your computer, tablet or other device.

Protecting younger players

For those with younger family members to think about, online gaming can be a concern. From cyberbullying, to excessive time spent playing games, to unscrupulous games which encourage children to pay for content. Here are some useful external links to sources of information:

[Gaming: What parents and carers need to know \(www.thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

[Online gaming safety tips for parents \(www.internetmatters.org\)](http://www.internetmatters.org)

[Buying a games console for your child \(www.internetmatters.org\)](http://www.internetmatters.org)

[Understanding online games \(www.nspcc.org.uk\)](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

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[You & your family](#)