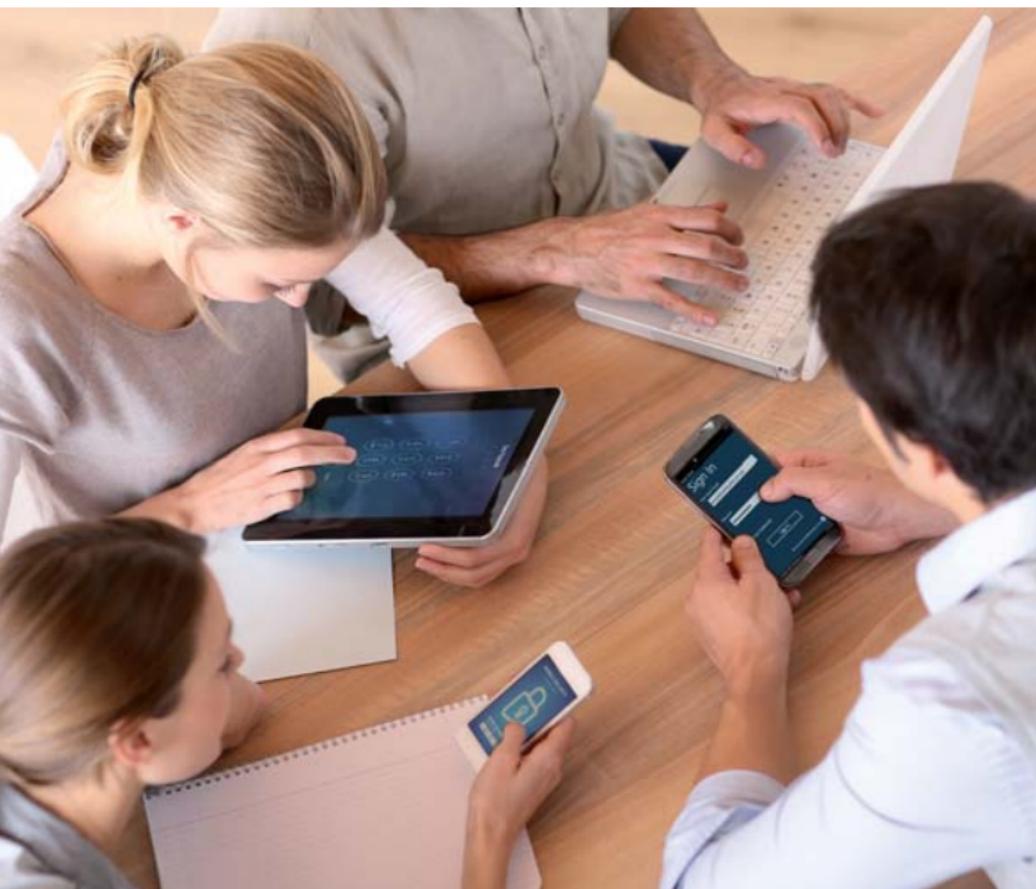


# Passwords



Internet Safety  
Starts with **you.**



Many day-to-day things we do online require the use of passwords to access the service – be it shopping, banking, entertainment, subscriptions or a host of others.

Passwords are the key to our online lives, which makes them very attractive to fraudsters, identity thieves and hackers.

This makes it essential to choose and use passwords with great care in order so that they cannot be used by others.



## Top tips for choosing and using passwords

### Choosing the best passwords

- Always use a password for your online accounts and to access your devices (or a PIN for your smartphone or tablet).
- Choose passwords that are as difficult as possible to guess or crack, with no relationship to things or people in your personal or work life.
- There are a number of ways to devise good passwords, some are suggested on the passwords advice page mentioned at the bottom of this page.
- Never disclose your passwords to anyone else. If you think that someone else knows your password, or you think it has been compromised, change it immediately.
- Change your passwords regularly.
- Use a different password for every website. If you have only one password, a criminal simply has to break it to gain access to everything.
- If you must write passwords down in order to remember them, make sure they are meaningless to, and unusable by other people.
- Do not send your passwords by email, nor reveal them to a caller. No reputable organisation will ask you to do this.

**The fact that you should use different passwords for each of your accounts and devices can make them very difficult to remember. Consider using one of the many password vaults available on the internet, but read reviews and get recommendations.**

**For more information on the correct use of passwords, please visit**

**[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org),  
click 'Protecting Yourself'  
and select 'Passwords'**

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# Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by a number of government departments, law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.

Our advice is free, authoritative, informative, impartial and easy to follow.

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[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

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