Safe online gaming

Internet Safety
Starts with **you.**

Online gaming can be fun and has become easier and more widespread thanks to the wide variety of devices and platforms you can use. But the fact that you can play against – and communicate with – so many other gamers without knowing their true identity, and the fact that money can be involved, means that you need to be able to spot danger signals and know how to deal with them.

These could include revealing too much personal information, being scammed when buying or selling in-game property, picking up viruses or spyware on your device, software infringement, becoming the victim of abuse, and running up massive costs for purchases or accessing new content or levels.

This applies to anybody gaming online.

Top tips for safe online gaming

- Before you play, have up-to-date internet security software running.
- Play only with games you have bought from authorised and reputable sources.
- Don't reveal any personal information in your gamertag.
- Don't reveal personal information in profiles or online/ verbal chats with other players.
- Use strong passwords, keep them protected and don't reveal them to anybody else.
- Keep game software up to date.
- Be very wary about downloading any unauthorised program relating to the game.
- Watch out for potential fraud when buying or selling in-game assets.
- If you become the victim of any kind of online abuse, close the conversation, do not retaliate and block the abuser.
- Do all you can to avoid hidden charges for elements such as accessing full content and higher levels.
- Be sure to erase confidential information from your device before disposing of it.
- Set gaming guidelines and ground rules for your children.

Report it!

- If you become the victim of abuse, you may choose to report it to the game network and/or the police
- If you become the victim of fraud via playing online games, report it to Action Fraud by calling **0300 123 20 40** or by visiting **www.actionfraud.police.uk**

For more information on safe online gaming, please visit www.getsafeonline.org, click *'Protecting Yourself'* **and select** *'Online Gaming'*

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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