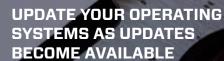# How to be Safe Online

https://www.abcd

CREATE COMPLEX PASSWORDS

This is the **best way to keep your personal and financial information safe.** If you reuse your passwords, a hacker can take leaked data from a database breach (such as the Equifax breach) and use it to login to your other accounts.

ONLY MAKE PURCHASES OVER HYPER TEXT TRANSFER PROTOCOL SECURE (HTTPS) SITES

HTTPS provides your data with multiple layers of protection including:

Encryption

This is important because if someone were to steal your information, the **data would be worthless because they would need a key** to decrypt it.

Data Integrity

This is important because it means the **data that you are sending cannot be corrupted or altered.**

Authentication

This is important because it **prevents "man in the middle" attacks**, which means that it's not possible for anyone to trick you into thinking they're providing you something when they're really giving it to a scammer.

AVOID WEBSITES WITH TOO MANY BANNER ADS

Banner ads can be deceptive—such as ads that hide the close button, making it easy to click the ad, which **can link to nothing relating to the ad you clicked.**

DON'T OPEN OR CLICK SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

These emails are **labeled as spam.** Spam is any kind of email that you don't want and that you didn't sign up to receive.

UPDATE YOUR OPERATING SYSTEMS AS UPDATES BECOME AVAILABLE

Most desktop security incidents are centered around flaws in the operating system. As these flaws are discovered, **vendors release patches to cover these security holes.**