

Cybercrime as a Business

# The Steps You Can Take To Protect Yourself



## Eliminate

- Retire compromised usernames
- Close unused email and social media accounts
- Never click on an unsolicited link or email attachment

## Mitigate

- Use a single email account for all non-essential activities
- Never use your true name when signing up for a free service
- Opt out of commercial data aggregators and people search sites

## Control

- Purchase a secure encrypted email service (e.g. Protonmail)
- Set privacy settings to most restrictive on social media and email
- Use a search engine and ad blocker that does not track or sell your data
- Always use a VPN and update your operating systems, apps and software

Cybersecurity can seem like a large undertaking, invoking the need for a range of technical tools and rare expertise.

However, to manage much of the cybercrime risk people face, modifying your on-line behavior and digital data availability is far more important to derail the cyber-criminal business model.

Here are some additional steps we recommend you take to advance yourself and your daily online computer habits and behaviors.

### **Passwords**

- Always use strong passwords and never recycle old ones
- Use unique and strong passwords for critical accounts like investments and health care
- Consider using a password manager service for added security

### **Authentication**

- Enable multi-factor authentication features whenever offered
- In combination with other safe behaviors this reduces the chance of criminals accessing your accounts through social engineering

### **Backup Data**

- Use common technology to backup your personal and business data
- External drives and cloud technology provide a simple means to preserve your data for later restoration
  - Elect to encrypt your backup data

### **Wifi Connections**

- Avoid using public or unsecured WIFI services for sensitive activities (like banking) whenever possible
- Install and consistently use a reliable Virtual Private Network service that will shield your internet activities

In Webinar 1, **Cybercrime as a Business** - we recommended several “opt out” actions to greatly reduce the chance that cybercriminals will access your personal and private information. We recommend you visit these sites to prevent commercial data aggregators and people search engines from trafficking your private, personally identifying information.

**Acxiom** - <https://isapps.acxiom.com/optout/optout.aspx>

**SearchInfotracer** - <https://infotracer.com/optout/>

**Been Verified** - <https://www.beenverified.com/app/optout/address>

**Intelius** - <https://www.intelius.com/opt-out>

**Spokeo** - <http://www.spokeo.com/optout>

**Lexis Nexis** - <http://optout.lexisnexis.com/>

**Radaris** - <https://radaris.com/control/privacy>

**TruePeopleSearch** - <https://www.truepeoplesearch.com/removal>

**Mylife** send removal request via email to [privacy@mylife.com](mailto:privacy@mylife.com)

## **Contact Us**

Reach out to Stratagem Consulting LLC for expert attention to these matters: [info@stratagemconsulting.us](mailto:info@stratagemconsulting.us)

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