REALTORS® & CYBER SECURITY

SIX WAYS TO KEEP YOUR DATA SAFE ONLINE

1

Shield your computer from e-mail viruses

Never open an email attachment from someone you don't know, and, if you receive a strange or impersonal-sounding message from a familiar address, check with that person to make sure that they actually sent it.

2

Remember that your email is public

Don't send any vital or private information via email. Keep in mind that unlike websites, email is never secure.

3

Shop online safely

When shopping online, check out the website before entering your credit card number or other personal information. Enter this information only on secure web pages with addresses that start with "https" and have a closed padlock symbol at the bottom of the browser window.

4

Beware of "phishers"

Don't respond to emails requesting personal or private information such as passwords, credit card numbers or bank account numbers. Even if a message appears to be from your bank or a trusted vendor, credible companies never request private information this way.

For more information on scams, visit: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts.

5

Beware of "spoofing"

Email spoofing is a technique used in spam and phishing attacks to trick users into thinking a message came from a person or entity they either know or can trust. In spoofing attacks, the sender forges email headers so that client software displays the fraudulent sender address, which most users take at face value. Unless they inspect the header more closely, users see the forged sender in a message.

6

Be aware of adware and malware

Don't click on error messages with unfamiliar logos that state "your computer has been infected with a virus" or "Trojan found." These messages will tell you there is something wrong with your computer and to download their protection service, when in actuality you are downloading a virus and setting yourself up for information loss, and potentially a ransomware attack.

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