

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

Cyberattacks are a common way for identity thieves to access your personal information. Understand how these attacks happen so you can prevent them!

Phishing incidents rose nearly **220%** in 2020.¹

HOW DO CYBERATTACKS HAPPEN?



Phishing Emails:
Cybercriminals

will try to trick you into giving up personal information by way of a fake email.

Tip: Don't open attachments or links in emails you aren't expecting.



Fake Calls (Vishing):
The Internal

Revenue Service (IRS), banks or other major services (like Amazon) will very rarely request personal information over the phone. Calls like these are fake.

Tip: Do not return voicemails about "compromised accounts." Instead, review account activity online, then report the fake call to that service.



Fake Texts (Smishing):
Watch out

for texts that request sensitive information like passwords, bank accounts or credit card numbers.

Tip: Most banks will never text you with information about your account. Call your financial institution's direct line to verify any suspicious texts.



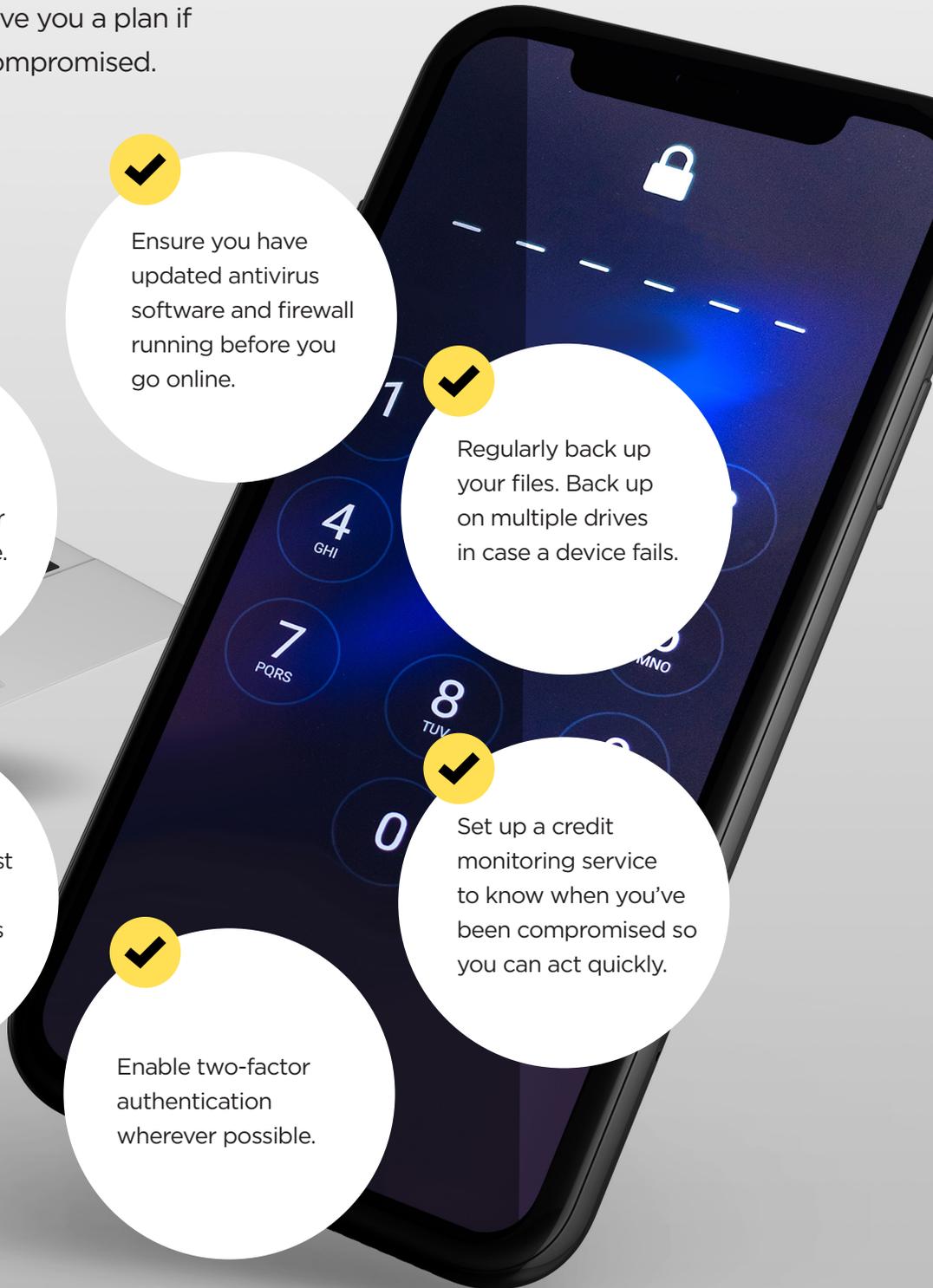
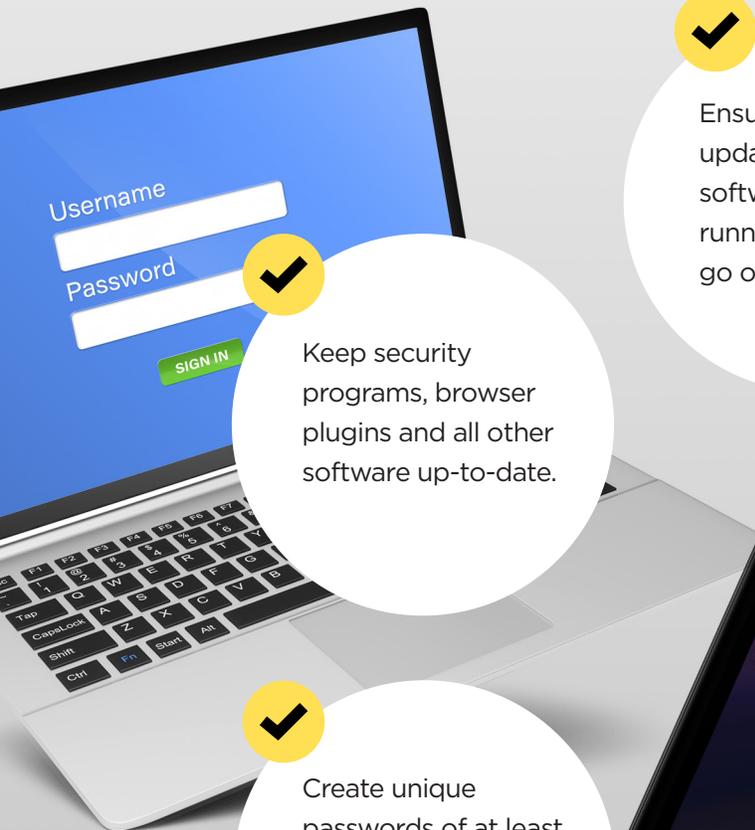
Social Media Phishing:
Direct

messages from fake accounts.

Tip: If you click a link in a direct message that appears to be from a familiar account, but it prompts you to re-enter your log-in credentials, it is fake.

PROTECTING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

These simple actions will help you stay one step ahead of cyberattacks and give you a plan if your information becomes compromised.



- ✓ Keep security programs, browser plugins and all other software up-to-date.
- ✓ Ensure you have updated antivirus software and firewall running before you go online.
- ✓ Regularly back up your files. Back up on multiple drives in case a device fails.
- ✓ Create unique passwords of at least 12 characters, and use letters, numbers and symbols.
- ✓ Set up a credit monitoring service to know when you've been compromised so you can act quickly.
- ✓ Enable two-factor authentication wherever possible.

REPORT THE ATTACK

If you find out your information was compromised, report it at **identitytheft.gov**. The FTC will generate a customized recovery plan.