

Surfing can be risky

Here are the most prevalent tell-tale signs of a threatening website and some ways that you can protect yourself:

- Never click on a link embedded in an email. Even if sent from someone you trust, always type the link into your browser
- Use your common sense. Does a website look strange to you? Is it asking for sensitive personal information?
- Look for signs of legitimacy. Does the website list contact information or some signs of a real-world presence. If doubtful, contact them by phone or email to establish their legitimacy.
- Read the URL carefully. If this is a website you frequent, is the URL spelled correctly?
- If it looks too good to be true, it probably is. Is the website offering you a product or service at an unheard of price? Or maybe they are promising you a huge return on investment? If the offer looks too good to be true, trust your instincts. Do some research to find reviews or warnings from other users.
- Check the properties of any links. Right-clicking a hyperlink and selecting “Properties” will reveal the true destination of the link. Does it look different from what it claimed to lead you to?



Protect Yourself

Utilize your internet browser's current version & security tools

Most browsers have sophisticated filters that can identify and warn you of potential security threats. For information on browser-specific security tools, explore their security features.

Internet Explorer: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/internet-explorer/products/ie-9/features/smartscreen-filter>

Mozilla Firefox: <https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/how-do-i-tell-if-my-connection-is-secure?redirectlocale=en-US&redirectslug=Site+Identity+Button>

Google Chrome: <https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/95617?hl=en>

Make sure that the proper online protection tools are enabled for your

Anti-Virus Software
McAfee's SiteAdvisor
Norton's Safe Search

You may also want to consider downloading an add-on for your browser that is specially designed to identify any unsafe elements of a website

Identifying Malicious Websites



Know the Web site your visiting before you Click!

Malicious Web Sites

As we continue to utilize the internet and pursue the numerous advantages it holds there will always be someone trying to cause havoc in that environment.

Realizing there are endless websites that are setup to cause malicious activity is the first step in being aware & cautious when utilizing the internet.

Taking the time to review a web site prior to clicking on anything within its contents is sometime a step we forget to do.

You should also always be on the lookout for the clues and telltale hints that you are on a malicious website.

After all, it is by smart people noticing something wrong and reporting it that can get them removed.



Not all Web Sites are Friendly

<http://www.malwaredomainlist.com/mdl.php>

The above link provides information as to whether the web site you are on or are going to has been deemed 'Malicious'. Note the snap shot below. You can search the website URL before you go to the site, to determine its known status.

THE LOCK ICON

Another sign to look for is the "Lock" icon that is displayed somewhere in the window of your web browser. Different browsers may position the lock in different places, but a few examples of what it may look like can be found here.



Clicking on the Lock icon will give you detailed information on the security status of this website

Know your Federal Privacy Laws

HIPAA - The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1996.

FCRA - The Fair Credit Reporting Act applies the principles of the Code of Fair Information Practice to credit reporting agencies. Because of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, each person can obtain a free annual credit report.

ECPA - The Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) establishes criminal sanctions for interception of electronic communication; However consent can be implied to any reading of electronic communications by accepting employment with an organization that practices surveillance against its employees.

Privacy Act of 1974 - establishes a Code of Fair Information Practice that governs the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information about individuals that is maintained in systems of records by federal agencies.

This is list is NOT all inclusive