



**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

**certnz** 

**Note to readers:** there are two logos at the top of this page. The logos are top left for Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa New Zealand Government, and on the right Cert NZ.

## **Top tips for cyber security**

Here is some information to help you keep safe online.

CERT NZ is a government agency that supports people and businesses who have a problem with cyber security.

CERT NZ provides trusted information and advice.

We are always on the look out for cyber threats that may affect New Zealanders.

CERT NZ works with other cyber security people and organisations, locally and internationally, to help keep New Zealand safe from cyber security threats

## **Use long, strong and unique passwords**

A long password is just as strong as a password with complicated numbers, letters and symbols.

An easy way to remember a long password is to use a sentence of four or more words.

For example, popcornwithbutterisbest!1

## **Use a password manager**

It's important that you use a different password for each of your online accounts. That means a lot of passwords to remember!

A "password manager" can help.

It's like an online safe that only you have the key to. It stores all your passwords for you safely.

You only need to remember one strong password for your password manager, and it'll do the rest!

## **Turn on two-factor authentication**

Two-factor authentication (2FA) is an extra layer of security for your accounts.

It means doing an extra step after you log in, such as entering a code provided from an app on your phone.

You can use 2FA on your phone, tablet, apps and accounts.

You'll usually find the option to turn it on in the privacy settings of the app or account.

## **Update your devices**

When you receive an alert to 'update' your device (e.g. phone, computer, tablet) don't ignore it — install it as soon as possible.

Updates fix any security weaknesses. Updating software prevents attackers from using these weaknesses to gain access to your information.

Set the updates to take place automatically whenever a new version is available. That way, you don't have to think about it!

## **Check your privacy**

Check how much personal information about yourself you're sharing online, and who you're sharing it with.

Attackers could use the information you share online to access your data or steal your identity.

Check that any requests for personal information are legitimate before you share your details.

If a company or business asks you for information, think about why they might need it.

If you're not sure, don't provide the information.

# Report it

If you, your friend, or your business experiences an online incident, report it to CERT NZ <https://www.cert.govt.nz/>

**End of information: Top tips for cyber security**