



# Newsletter

## Security Special

For this edition I am focusing on

[Passwords](#)

[Online Security](#)

[Telephone Scams](#)

and [Windows 10](#)



### Different Passwords

Given the news at the moment regarding Heart Bleed bug it will be time we focus on passwords again. General advice it to regularly change your passwords, ensuring they are different for each account and, not just by changing the number form 1 to 2!

This is even more important where financial information is retained by the website company. The safer approach is to **not** save your credit card details on a shopping website, and enter it every time you buy something. I appreciate it takes longer, but it is safer as your details are not retained.

Generally passwords with letters (upper case and lower case), numbers and special characters (\*+?!@)etc are more secure. Using the same password for everything is easy but a real 'NO NO'. It is similar to having the same pin for each of your credit/debit cards - once it is know then all is lost. I can appreciate that having different passwords for different sites etc can be difficult and hard to remember. However I do have one top tip, if you have a phrase that you always remember then use that but amend it for the site you are visiting. As an example (not actual passwords), my easy to remember phrase is 'buster1959'. From that my password for Tesco online shopping is 'busterTesco\*1959'; for Sainsburys it is 'busterSainsburys\*1959' and for Amazon it is 'busterAmazon\*1959' you get the idea. All I have done is add the name of the online shop/service I am using to my memorable phrase.

Please do not use 'password', 'password1' 'pa55word' or variants unsurprisingly these are easily guessed. In fact the most common passwords are:

Password; drowssap, pa55word, drow55ap, letmein, niemtel, qwerty, poiuyt, and pet names.

### Mothers Maiden Name

Another common security question is mothers maiden name. I will quite happily tell anyone my mothers maiden name (Thirkettle), however it is not the answer to the security question asked by many Banks institutions etc, no-one actually checks via birth records, it is just verified against the answer given at the time of the starting/opening the account etc. Your answer can be a teachers/pet name or something equally memorable. It can also be changed, as with any passwords, and should be regularly. Just vary the ideas detailed above (1959buster!).

There is also no huge problem in having the passwords written down in a book - better than have the same password. If you are worried about burglars, they want quick access to your goods to sell on - TV, PC, Laptop etc not a little book.

## Windows 10

For users of Windows 7 or Windows 8 or Windows 8.1 you will have noticed a small flag type icon in the System Tray (bottom right hand corner of the screen).



Do not panic it is nothing malicious is does mean however that you are eligible to receive a FREE copy of Windows 10 from the end of July. The 'offer' is open to all Windows 7/8/8.1 users that have the latest updates including any relevant service packs.

There is no great rush you have up to July 29th 2016 to get the upgrade. You can click on the icon and reserve your copy, but even then you are not obligated to have it.

For more details go to:

[Microsoft Windows 10 FAQ's](#)

[Microsoft - More detailed Specifications](#)

In a nutshell Windows 10 is the amalgamation of Windows 7 and Windows 8/8.1.

In answer to the question "what happened to Windows 9..?" - one answer is that the Japanese consider nine to be unlucky because in Japanese the word for nine sounds similar to the word for "pain" or "distress"



## Golden Rules

**Do not trust your computer - ever. Be the master of it!**

**Do not be afraid of your computer - be the master of it!**

**If it seems to good to be true - it probably isn't true.**

**Save email attachments to your computer - scan it with your Anti-Virus product. THEN open to view.**

**Keep your Anti Virus up to date.**

(Paid for is not better than free).

**Initiate regular scans with your Anti Virus product.**

**Your bank will never email you to clarify/confirm security details.**

**A courier company will never email you to say that they could not make the delivery - they always put a note through your door!**

**No one will ring you to tell you there is a problem with your computer.**

[ActionFraud](#) is the UK's national fraud and internet crime reporting centre.

They provide a central point of contact for information about fraud and financially motivated internet crime.

**Action fraud links to common 'current scams'**

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/fraud-az-microsoft-frauds>

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/watch-out-for-microsoft-scam-calls-to-fix-your-computer-jan15>

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/thedevilsinyourdetails-online>

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/thedevilsinyourdetails-phone>

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/millions-of-talktalk-customers-vulnerable-to-fraud-after-data-breach-feb15>

They also have an email alert system that provides a warning for new trends in scams. It is free and a very good tool. Please do not keep this information to yourselves - share it, talk about it! I am absolutely certain that friends and family will not be aware of some of the scams used, and maybe, just maybe you will prevent someone you know being a victim.

Below is a link to a BBC website that covers some simple hints and tips to keep yourself safe whilst online shopping.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/22728224>

Above all else please remember these simple three things:

**Save email attachments to your computer - scan it with your Anti-Virus product (generally right click the file, then the option to scan should be there). THEN open to view.**

**Your bank will never email you to clarify/confirm security details.**

**No one will ring you to tell you there is a problem with your computer - EVER no matter how convincing they are.**

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