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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DATA PRIVACY DAY

arty. In Europe, it's been around since 2007, while The United

Day) is an international holiday that occurs every 28 January. The romote privacy and data protection best practices.

e than ten years, awareness around the protection of data is data breach incidents across the world are occurring on a more should have strict measures in place to protect their users' data. on of GDPR and POPI. Before both these data laws, there was DPR and POPI acts changed this. Now companies are held heir clients' personal information.

rrenechea, CEO at OpenText, "[e]very day we are building, brick r we are aware of it or not." A bigger digital footprint makes it l information such as usernames and passwords, your physical k your actions and anticipate your behaviour. Every little piece of to your disadvantage.

e responsibility for protecting your own information. We can no our digital identities safe. This we've clearly seen over the past few year with multiple data breaches - many including large companies such as Facebook and Google.

Data Privacy is just one day in the year to make data owners (that's anyone using a digital platform!) aware of the importance of protecting data. However, we should be aware of the risks every day. How can you protect your data? www.digitalguardian has an extensive guide, but here are 10 basic tips:

1. *Use **encrypted networks** when you're accessing important information. Even though open and free Wi-Fi is tempting, it comes at a high risk. If you're browsing websites not using https, know that whatever you do can be seen by someone else.*
2. *Choose **strong passwords**. Don't know how? Here are some tips. The general trend is using two-factor authentication. Better even, use a password manager as it's the most secure solution.*
3. *Protect your passwords. Don't write them down. Don't share them. And most importantly, **don't use the same password for all your social networks or websites.***
4. ***Update your software** when it prompts you to. Don't ignore it because you don't have time - it might be an important security update which will prevent that you are at risk.*
5. ***Update your antivirus software regularly**. New versions of viruses, malware, etc. are released regularly to explore weaknesses. If you don't update, you'll be an easy target. Also, consider an anti-virus for your mobile devices - they are even more vulnerable.*
6. *Check and configure **privacy settings** on your phone. Consider carefully which apps you give access to use certain services on your phone, for example the camera function.*
7. ***Lock your smartphone and tablet devices** when you are not using them. Mobile devices are used to access social media, banking services and various other apps containing personal information.*
8. ***Enable remote location and device-wiping.** If your mobile device is stolen, no-one will be able to access your information.*
9. ***Delete your data from old devices**, for example, smartphones, before you sell, discard or pass them onto*

someone else.

10. **Back up your data on a daily basis**. If your device is infected with malware or stolen, you'll still have your data.

[SOURCES: https://www.forbes.com; https://www.techradar.com]

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