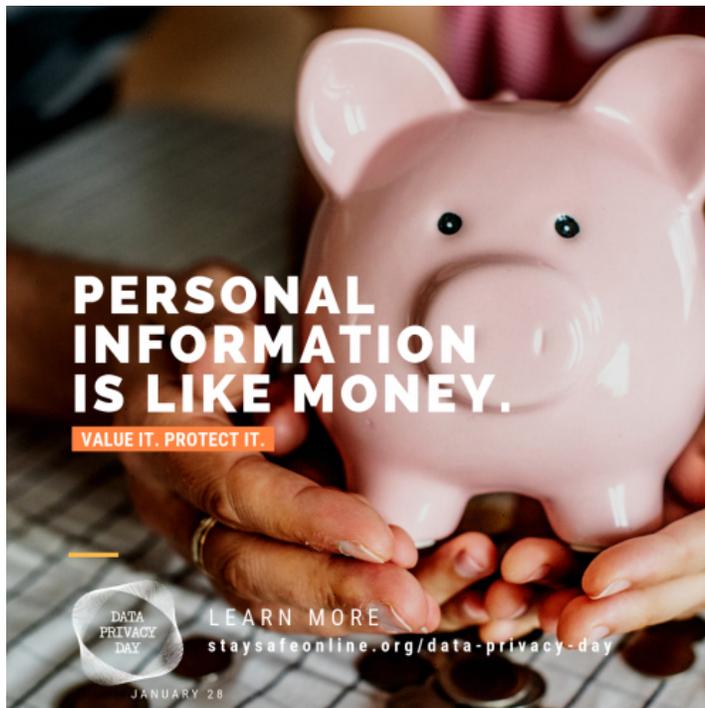


# INFORMASIE TECHNOLOGIE

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### EVERY DAY IS DATA PROTECTION DAY



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

**Privacy Day** (known in Europe as Data Protection Day) is an annual event. Data Privacy Day is to raise awareness and promote data protection. In the United States, Canada, Israel and 47 European

countries, awareness around the protection of data has grown significantly in the last few years. Firstly there has been a surge in data breach incidents. Google who was fined £44 million fine in France for the implementation of GDPR last year. Up until then, the EU's Data Protection Directive and POPI acts changed this. Now companies are being held accountable for their clients' personal information.

John C. McQuinn, CEO at OpenText, "[e]very day we are building, brick by brick, the wall of it or not." A bigger digital footprint makes it easier for hackers to find you. As well as usernames and passwords, your physical location, your browsing history and anticipate your behaviour. Every little piece of information is an advantage.

It is your responsibility that you take responsibility for protecting your own data. It is your responsibility to keep our digital identity safe. This we've clearly seen from the actions of 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 our data. However, we should be aware of the risks every day. How can you protect your data? You already know, you just need to start or continue doing it. [www.digitalguardian.com](http://www.digitalguardian.com) has an extensive guide for protecting your data, 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 risk. If you're browsing websites which are not 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. More tech experts are recommending a password manager as it's the most secure solution.
3. Protect your passwords. Don't write them down. Don't share them. 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.
5. Update your anti-virus software regularly. New versions of viruses, malware, etc. are released on a daily basis. 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.
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 - all of which can be abused if gained access to.

8. *Enable remote location and device-wiping. If your mobile device is stolen, at least someone won't 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. *And lastly, back up your data on a regular basis. At least you'll have access to it even if you lose your device.*

*Data means power and unless you want to lose that power, you need to protect it.*

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

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