Don’t be a victim

Protect yourself from identity fraud
Here’s how:

Protect your login details - set up multi-factor authentication

Usernames and passwords alone are not enough to protect key accounts such as email, banking and social media. Many online services give you the option of using an additional method of authenticating such as a one-time code sent to your mobile phone, a security key or even biometrics.

Write it down and keep it safe

Everyone can forget a password. Keep a list that’s stored in a safe, secure place away from your computer. Or use a service like a password manager to keep track of your passwords. Don’t forget to have multiple factor authentication set up for your password manager though!

Be wary of phishing

Links in email, tweets, posts and online advertising are often the way cybercriminals compromise your computer. If it looks suspicious, even if you know the source, it’s best to delete or if appropriate, mark as junk email.

Think before you act

Be wary of communications that ask you to act immediately, offer something that sounds too good to be true, or ask for personal information.

Passphrases, not passwords

A strong password is a sentence that is at least 12 characters long. Focus on positive sentences or phrases that you like to think about and are easy to remember.

Keep software current

Having the latest software, web browser and operating system are the best defences against viruses, malware and other online threats.

Don’t protect just your computer

Smartphones, gaming systems and other web-enabled devices also need protection from viruses and malware. Update them when prompted.

Unique account, unique passphrases

Having separate passphrases for every account helps to thwart fraudsters.

Back it up

Protect your valuable work, music, photos and other digital information by making an electronic copy and storing it safely.

If you suspect your password has been compromised

Change it immediately.

Visit www.bristol.ac.uk/infosec for more information.

If you think you’ve been the victim of identity theft or any other information security related issue, contact your friendly neighbourhood Information Security team at cert@bristol.ac.uk