

Gear'd Up

Third Quarter 2021 Newsletter

When You're Online, Sharing is Not Necessarily Caring



Ever since you were in daycare or on the playground, chances are good you heard the expression, "Sharing is caring." And while that may be true when it comes to sharing the swing set during recess, that's not the case when it comes to using the Internet. In fact, it's way too easy to overshare when you're online.

A common trap cyberthieves use is sending out fake emails that look genuine. You could see an email from Instagram Support asking to verify your account information, or maybe one from Netflix asking you to renew your subscription. Many times, these emails are legitimate. But if an email has multiple typos, incomplete sentences or just reads very unprofessionally, it's probably fake.

This is especially true if there are fake links in the email. Never click on a link in an email you think is suspicious,

and never click on any links from someone you don't know or recognize.

Another common cyber scam involves oversharing through social media. You've probably seen your friends share memes asking about songs that were number one on the charts the day you were born, or seeing if you remember the name of your best friend and elementary school. Those all seem like harmless posts, but answering those questions is a great way to indirectly share personal information cyberthieves can use to steal your identity.

The good news is you are your best line of defense from oversharing information online. Be cautious and if anything looks suspicious, be sure to ask your parent or guardian about it.

*(For more cyber awareness posts, be sure to visit the **Fraud Prevention Tips** section of the [ITCU.org](https://www.itcu.org) website.)*



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