

# HOW TO STAY CYBER SAFE DURING TAX SEASON



Like it or not, it's that time of the year again: tax season, also known as a cyber criminal's holy grail. There's a reason why tax season is one of the busiest periods for cyber crime – it's an opportunity for criminals to steal tonnes of personal information and critical data.

**If you're filing your taxes online this year, here are some things you can do to protect yourself from identity and financial theft:**



# 76%

**OF CANADIANS ARE CONCERNED  
ABOUT IDENTITY THEFT.<sup>1</sup>**



## PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

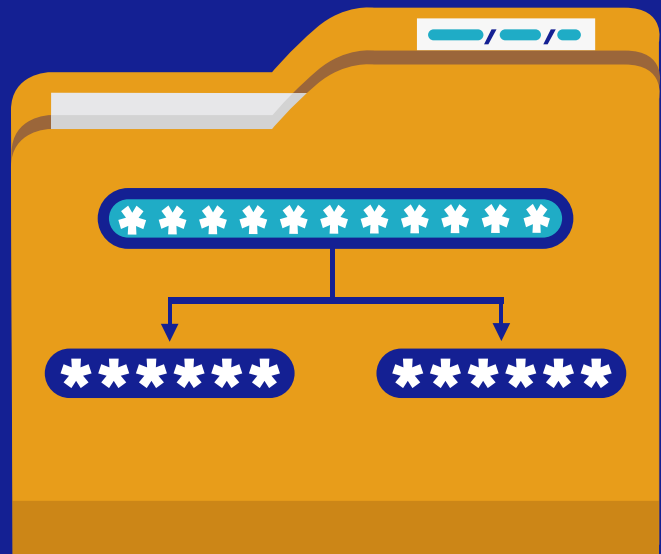
**YOUR TAX DATA IS A GOLD MINE FOR CYBER CRIMINALS.  
YOUR TAXES CONTAIN ALL OF THE INFORMATION  
THEY NEED TO STEAL YOUR IDENTITY –  
LIKE YOUR SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER (SIN),  
YOUR RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT, YOUR FAMILY STATUS  
AND EVEN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION.**



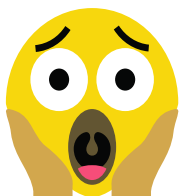
## YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF BY:



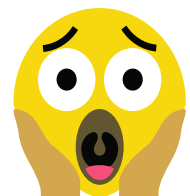
CREATING A STRONG,  
**UNIQUE PASSPHRASE OR  
PASSWORD** FOR EACH  
OF YOUR TAX ACCOUNTS



ENABLING **MULTI-FACTOR  
AUTHENTICATION (MFA)**  
WHENEVER IT'S AVAILABLE



# 29%



**OF CANADIANS STILL USE  
THE DEFAULT PASSWORD  
ON THEIR HOME WI-FI NETWORKS.<sup>1</sup>**



## **FILE YOUR TAXES ON A SECURE NETWORK**

**Public Wi-Fi connections that don't require passwords,  
like your local library or coffee shop, are risky.**

You should never access personal accounts or send sensitive information,  
like your taxes, while using unsecured networks.

Save these tasks for when you have a secure connection.

If you need to use a public Wi-Fi network, make sure you're using  
a VPN so that you can protect your private information.



# YOU CAN FILE YOUR TAXES SAFELY BY:



ONLY FILING ON  
A SECURE NETWORK,  
LIKE YOUR **HOME WI-FI**



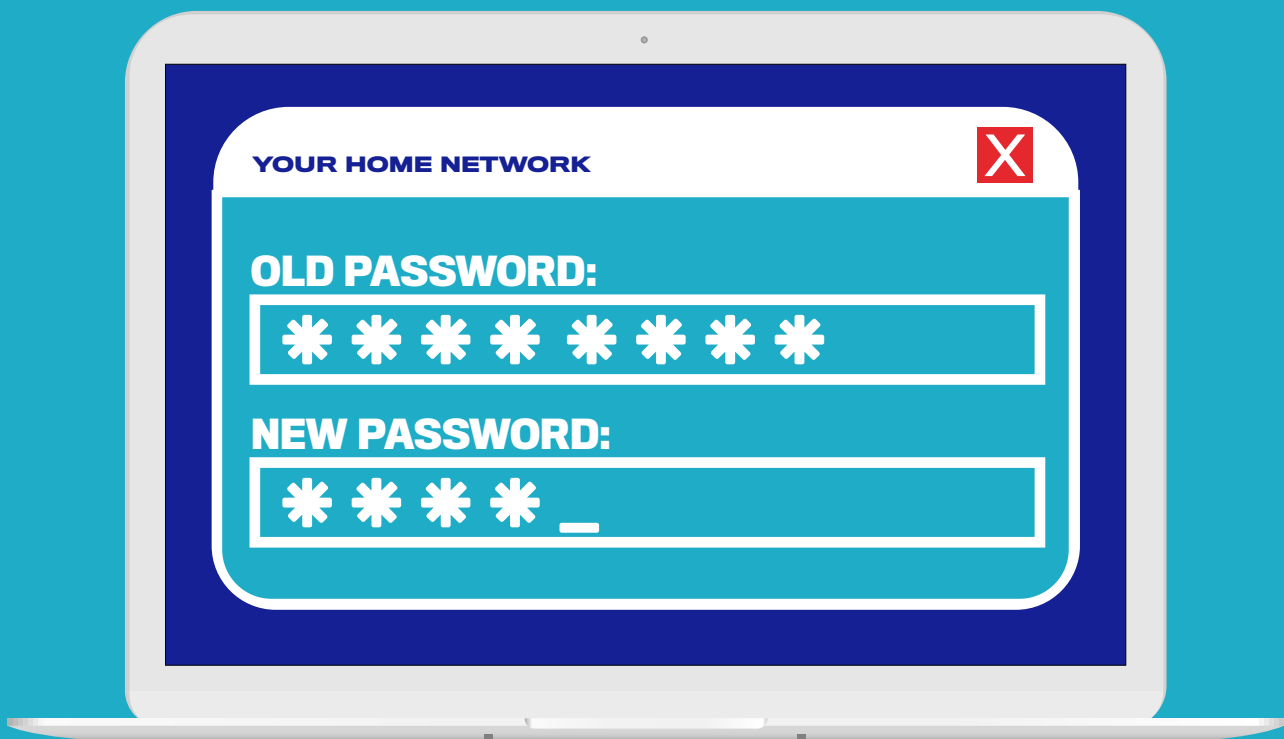
USING A **VPN** TO PROTECT  
SENSITIVE INFORMATION



ENABLING YOUR **FIREWALL**



NOT ACCESSING SENSITIVE INFO  
ON **PUBLIC WI-FI** UNLESS USING A VPN

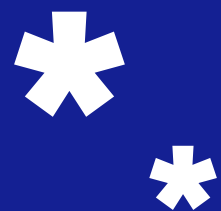
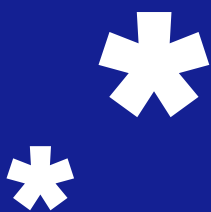
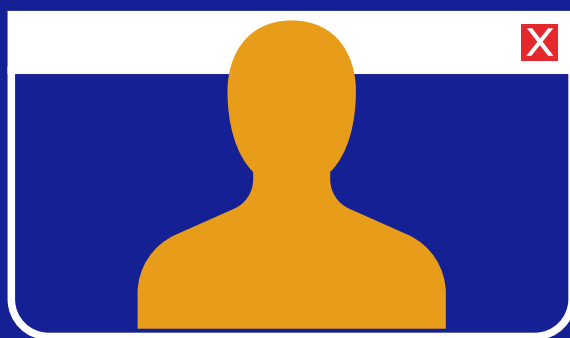


UPDATING YOUR HOME **NETWORK'S**  
**USERNAME AND PASSWORDS**  
FROM THE DEFAULT SETTINGS



# 3 in 10

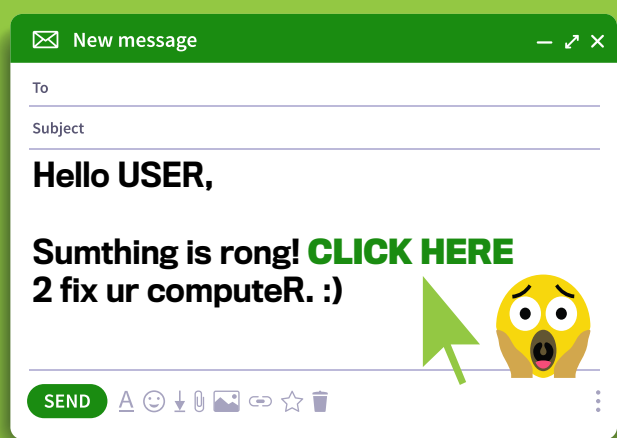
**CANADIANS ARE CONCERNED  
ABOUT PHISHING SCAMS.<sup>1</sup>**



## **BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR PHISHING ATTACKS**

Cyber criminals will often impersonate legitimate organizations or individuals to steal your information. These phishing attempts are harder to spot during tax season when you might think that the CRA is contacting you.

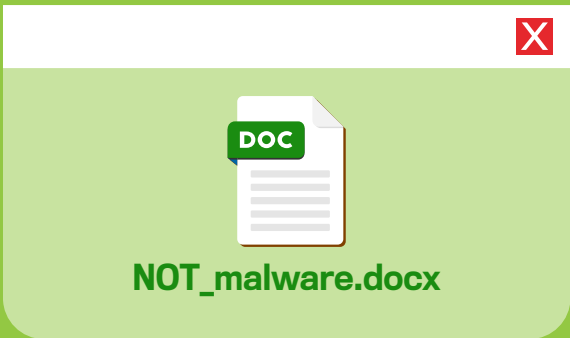
# YOU CAN IDENTIFY PHISHING SCAMS BY LOOKING OUT FOR SOME COMMON **RED FLAGS**:



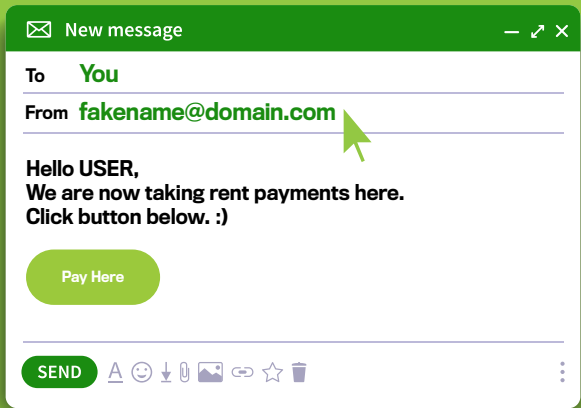
EMAILS OR TEXTS THAT HAVE SPELLING OR GRAMMAR MISTAKES



POOR FORMATTING, OR BLURRY LOGOS AND IMAGES



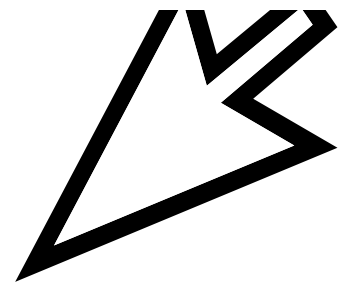
SUSPICIOUS LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS



EMAIL ADDRESSES THAT ARE SUSPICIOUS OR DON'T MATCH THE ORGANIZATION THEY CLAIM TO BE FROM

Not sure if it's really the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)?  
Learn what to expect if the CRA contacts you by visiting their **official website**.

45%



OF CANADIANS SET THEIR DEVICES  
TO UPDATE AUTOMATICALLY.<sup>1</sup>



## UPDATE YOUR DEVICES AS A DEFENCE

**Software updates aren't just for new features.**  
They also come with critical patches, bug fixes and security updates.  
Ensuring your devices are up to date could help you fight off a cyber attack.

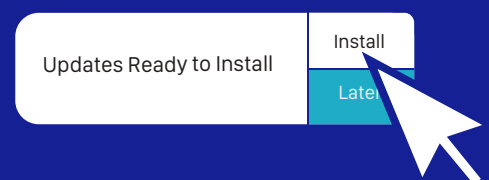
### YOU CAN SECURE YOUR SOFTWARE BY:



SETTING YOUR DEVICES  
TO **RUN UPDATES**  
**AUTOMATICALLY**



REGULARLY UPDATING  
YOUR **ANTI-VIRUS**  
**SOFTWARE**



**UPDATING YOUR SOFTWARE**  
AS SOON AS THE UPDATE  
IS AVAILABLE

GET MORE TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR DEVICES AT

 **GETCYBERSAFE.CA**



Communications  
Security Establishment

Centre de la sécurité  
des télécommunications

**Canada** 

<sup>1</sup> Get Cyber Safe Awareness Tracking Survey, EKOS, 2020