

How To Protect Your Digital Self

Look in the mirror. Ask yourself what you want to protect and from whom. Plug the high risk holes first.

Master your passwords! A good password manager generates, stores and updates all your passwords with the press of a button. The actual passwords are encrypted and accessible solely by you, but the system is only as good as our master password. <http://passwordsgenerator.net/>

Ditch touch ID. It's a neat way to quickly unlock your phone, but your fingerprint sensor is also one of the easier ways for someone else to access your device.

Avoid cookies. Cookies are small bits of code that are temporarily installed on your computer when you visit a website. Even after you close your browser, cookies continue to track information. This should be your new mantra: Flush the cache, delete the cookies, protect your privacy.

Browse safely. When you surf the Internet you are publically sharing your browsing activity with online data collectors. Foil their plans by downloading HTTPS Everywhere. This browser extension for Chrome, Firefox and Opera forces encrypted communication with tens of thousands of websites, including those that don't use HTTPS by default.

You can't lock down all of the things all of the time – it's the digital equivalent of hiding in a bunker. Build a personal protection plan that makes sense for you.

If you would like to submit a question or suggest a topic for future column consideration, please email your questions or comments to: info.vpcuc@gmail.com

The next monthly meeting of the Vernon PC Users' Club will be Tuesday, September 11th, at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria at the Schubert Centre.

We start off every meeting with a 'TANSQ' session. Come check us out!

Call Betty at 250-309-1590 or Grace at 250-549-4318 for more information.