

## CYBER SAFETY

# Choosing services, software and equipment

## email providers

Email is one of the most essential online services used today. If your email is compromised, your personal information (accounts, communications, phone numbers, addresses, etc.) can be stolen. The best email providers surround your information with several layers of security.

### FEATURES TO LOOK FOR

#### Authentication

A high-quality email service will provide secure authentication to prevent spam and spoofing.

#### Virus scanning

Email is scanned for malicious content by the provider.

**Look for a provider that offers enough storage, good IMAP and POP sync options for your mobile device, and an intuitive interface.**

#### Anti-spam

Reputable email service providers filter spam messages from your inbox.

#### Phishing protection

Some service providers will identify potential phishing emails.

## password protection

Weaknesses stem from how users choose and manage passwords, which can make it very easy for hackers to access them and break into individual accounts.

Password management tools help users store and organize passwords, and can even provide additional features, such as form filling and password generation.

### FEATURES TO LOOK FOR

#### Synchronization

A good password manager will allow access from anywhere and synchronize across devices.

#### Password generator

Automatically generates strong, complex passwords.

**Look for a password management tool that supports the types of browsers, operating systems and mobile devices you use.**

#### Encryption

Passwords are stored encrypted, and the master password is not retrievable.

#### Multi-factor support

Better management tools will support complex multi-factor passwords.

## virus and malware protection

If you use a computer for web surfing, shopping, banking, email and instant messaging and do not have proper protection, you are at high risk of being victimized.

Running real-time anti-virus products and keeping them up-to-date is an essential step to reduce risks from malware, and can reduce infection by more than 80%.

### FEATURES TO LOOK FOR

#### Detection

High-quality software detects existing and new variations of malicious software.

#### Cleaning

Effectively quarantines or removes malicious software from an infected device.

#### Protection

Helps maintain a healthy system by proactively preventing malicious infection.

**Consider the number of devices that each vendor will allow the software to be installed on per license subscription purchase.**

#### Performance

Good anti-virus software will not slow down your system.

#### Parental controls

Optional feature that will secure your systems when used by children.

#### Backups

Many applications provide optional back-up protection in case of system failure.

## wireless routers

A wireless router allows you to connect devices to the internet and communicate with other devices on your network.

Routers are computers, with their own operating systems, software and vulnerabilities. If hackers gain access to your router, they can gain access to your files, log key strokes and access your accounts.

### FEATURES TO LOOK FOR

#### Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) protection

Prevents high-volume malicious attacks to your home network.

#### Firewall

Secures your network from intrusion.

**Look for a router with a range that fits the size of your home and supports the number of devices you want to connect to it.**

#### Guest network

Allows for separate network and credentials for temporary access.