

## 10. Why Should You Protect Your Personal Information?

To an identity thief, it can provide instant access to your financial accounts, your credit record and your other personal assets. If you think that no one would be interested in your personal information, think again.

The reality is that anyone can be a victim of identity theft. In fact, according to a Federal Trade Commission survey, there are almost 10 million victims every year. It is often difficult to know how thieves obtained their victims' personal information, and while it definitely can happen offline, some cases start when online data is stolen. Visit the FTC's [Identity Theft website](#) to learn what to do if your identity is stolen. Unfortunately, when it comes to crimes like identity theft, you can't entirely control whether you will become a victim. However, you may find tips from a [website](#) created by two non-profit groups (the Anti-Phishing Working Group and National Cyber Security Alliance) can help reduce your risk while you are online.

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