

REIX

August 23, 2023



5 Easy Ways To Reduce Your Cyber Risk

Cyber threats are on the rise and protecting sensitive information is more critical than ever.

Whether it's a local real estate agent or a big player like Suncor, hackers are on the lookout for easy targets and vulnerabilities.

REIX's free [Cyber Shield program](#), available to all subscribers across Alberta and Saskatchewan, can help you beat cyber criminals at their own game. Using industry-leading risk management software, Cyber Shield provides ongoing scans, monitoring and assigns you a personalized cyber security

score. Similar to a credit score, this score reflects your level of risk and enables you to take proactive measures to enhance your cyber security.

Here are 5 simple – and essential – steps you can take to reduce your cyber risk and help maintain a healthy cyber security score:

1. Regularly Update Software and Devices

One of the simplest yet most effective ways to enhance your cyber security is to keep your software and devices up to date. Cybercriminals often exploit vulnerabilities in outdated systems, so make it a habit to install the latest software updates promptly. Enable automatic updates whenever possible to ensure you are protected against the latest threats.

2. Strengthen Passwords and Enable Multi-Factor Authentication

Passwords are the first line of defense against unauthorized access. Make sure to use strong, unique passwords for all your accounts and avoid reusing them. Consider using a password manager to securely store and generate complex passwords. Additionally, enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) wherever available to add an extra layer of protection by requiring a second verification step, such as a code sent to your mobile device.

3. Remain Vigilant With Messages You Receive

When it comes to cyber attacks, emails, text messages and social media messages are often the starting point. It's important to exercise caution when opening messages, particularly if they're from unfamiliar senders or include suspicious links or attachments. It's best to avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments unless you're certain they're legitimate. Keep in mind that reputable organizations will never ask for sensitive information via email.

4. Practice Safe Internet Browsing

To reduce the chances of malware infections and phishing attempts, it's essential to adopt safe browsing habits. Make sure to be cautious when visiting unfamiliar or suspicious websites, especially if they request personal or financial information. You can verify a website's security by checking for HTTPS encryption.

According to [Get Cyber Safe](#), encrypted websites that use HTTPS ensure people can't access information when it's being sent from your device to the website and back again. Look for the HTTPS prefix in the address bar when visiting websites.

Additionally, always ensure that your connections are secure. Public Wi-Fi spots found in places like restaurants, airports and hotels are often unsecured, so it's best to avoid them if possible. If you can't connect to a secure connection, consider using your mobile data as a safer alternative.

5. Check Your Cyber Shield Account Regularly

Managing your cyber risk can be challenging, but Cyber Shield can help you safeguard your personal data and maintain a healthy cyber security score. Be sure to regularly check your account for any action points or alerts. If you haven't signed up yet, it's quick and easy to register. Once your account is activated, ongoing passive scans and monitoring will alert you of any issues.

[Sign up](#) today for the free Cyber Shield program. Or if you're an existing user, why not [log in](#) to check your latest score?

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