

Protect Yourself from Account Hijacking

Account hijacking is the fastest growing form of identity theft, victimizing millions of Americans over the last decade. The FDIC, a government entity charged with insuring financial institution deposits, defines account hijacking as any unauthorized access to and misuse of asset accounts through phishing and hacking.

Phishing?

Phishing involves theft of personal financial information from individuals through deception on the internet. Hacking is unauthorized use of a computer or computer networks aided by spyware, which is illegal software that collects personal information.

Take Action

You can protect yourself from account hijacking: Choose your passwords carefully and change them often. Don't use a password that could be easily guessed, such as your children's name, your home address or phone number. Install Firewall and anti-spyware on your computer. A firewall is software designed to help prevent unauthorized access to your computer.

Don't respond to phishing emails. Delete suspicious emails that request personal or financial information. Internet fraudsters can make emails look legitimate by stealing logos and other graphics from businesses you know and trust.



Review your credit report annually. You are entitled to one free credit report from each of the three credit reporting agencies each year.



- Equifax
P.O. Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374
1-800-685-1111
- Experian
P.O. Box 2002
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion
P.O. Box 1000
Chester, PA 19022
1-800-888-4213