

IF YOU THINK YOUR ACCOUNT HAS BEEN HACKED...

Fearless internet explorers, you have the power to reclaim your online accounts even if a hacker sneaks in! With some quick, sure-footed action, you can shoo cybercriminals out of your social media, email, or other account and push them back into the digital wilderness. Let's look at how you can identify if one (or several) of your accounts have been compromised and how you can restore order to your online basecamp.

Look out for tell-tale signs that your account has been hacked.

There are a few common ways you might find out that an online account has been compromised:

- Your social media profile publishes posts that you didn't create
- Your social media profile sends phishing DMs to followers encouraging them to click on a link, download an app, or buy something
- Friends and followers tell you that they've received emails or messages that you never sent
- A company alerts you that your account information was lost or stolen in a data breach



IF YOU THINK YOUR ACCOUNT HAS BEEN HACKED...

1. Change the account's password right away.

You can often lock out a cybercriminal by changing the account's password. Unfortunately, this can also work the other way around: the hacker might change the password and lock you out. If this happens, use the account's "Forgot my Password" function to reset it. If more help is needed, contact the online platform or website ASAP about the situation.

2. Notify your contacts that your account was hacked and that they might receive spam messages that look like they came from you.

Instruct your friends, family, colleagues, followers, and other contacts not to open these messages or click on any links contained in them. When the situation is cleared up, let everyone know that your accounts are secure again.

3. Run a full system scan of your computer using your antivirus software.

4. Get help.

If you suspect someone has stolen money from you, contact your bank and the local police. If a work account was compromised, contact your company's IT department. If you think your identity was stolen, contact the three credit bureaus and the FTC. Contact the respective online platform regarding the hacked account. Contact trusted friends and family about the matter so they can be on the lookout for weird communications from your online profiles.

