



Tips on how to work securely from home

Cyber hygiene when working from home is just as important as physical hygiene for preventing virus infections.

Security sources indicate that cybercriminals are already taking advantage of the Covid-19 pandemic to launch phishing campaigns and spread malware. With masses of people working from home, hackers are aiming to exploit the home environment, where security might not be as tight as in the corporate environment.

Some basic measures will help you to keep safe when working from home:

1. Uphold good office practices like using strong passwords, allowing updates from reliable sources to run on your computer, using up to date malware protection, and not clicking on links or opening attachments in unsolicited email received.
2. Be wary of phishing attempts by checking the sending address, considering whether a request is unusual, not letting curiosity replace common sense, and generally choosing to be safe rather than sorry.
3. Be aware of new cyberthreats emerging because of Covid-19. Examples are invitations to view important news on the pandemic on malevolent sites, requests for donations to WHO, and apps that allegedly allow you to trace infected people in your vicinity, but then lock your device and demand a ransom. Also be vigilant of criminals pretending to be officials under the guise of conducting Covid-19 home screenings.
4. Use only trusted Internet connections, such as your home Wi-Fi that has been password protected or a personal hotspot. Avoid the neighbour's or public unsecured Wi-Fi. If you cannot avoid using public Wi-Fi from your mobile phone, use a VPN solution. Recommended VPNs are ExpressVPN (paid) and Tunnelbear (free).
5. Do not leave a laptop unattended in a vehicle.
6. Lock and securely store your computer when not in use.
7. Do not allow members of your household or visitors to access your work computer.
8. Regularly backup your files.
9. Note that the IT Helpdesk remains available to assist you during normal working hours and will use remote access software to help you with problems on UP computers at home.