Protect Yourself Against Data Breaches

Consumer Tips for Protecting Your Accounts and Your Identity

Recent security breaches, particularly the September announcement by Equifax that data for 143 million Americans was compromised, have caused intense concern. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) recommends the following steps to protect yourself:

**Monitor your accounts for unauthorized charges or debits.** Review your accounts regularly using online banking, or at a minimum examine your monthly statements closely. Report even small problems immediately as some thieves may process a small charge or debit just to see if the account is live or whether the consumer notices. Fraudulent charges may occur many months after information is stolen.

**Alert SLFCU immediately if you suspect card fraud.** Contact SLFCU to cancel your current card before more transactions come through. Under federal law and other applicable rules, you are generally not responsible for unauthorized debits or charges to credit or debit card accounts, as long as they are reported within 60 days of the fraudulent activity.

**Avoid scams that ask for personal information by email or phone.** A common scheme, known as “phishing,” involves a scammer contacting a consumer by email or phone and asking to verify account information. SLFCU will never ask for account information through email. Report suspicious calls and emails to abuse@slfcu.org. If you have provided personal or account information, call SLFCU immediately.

**Follow up and maintain records.** If you contact SLFCU or any other company regarding fraud, write down the dates on which calls are made and keep this information in a file. If you send a secure message through online banking, be sure to keep a copy for your own records.

**Sign up for eStatements and eNotices.** By signing up for eStatements and eNotices, you keep sensitive financial information out of your mailbox, which is an easy target for identity thieves. You’ll also receive an email notice of overdrafts on your account rather than a paper letter, which can help you act sooner if your account information has been stolen and used.

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**Online & Mobile Banking Upgrade**

In the first quarter of 2018, SLFCU will upgrade our online and mobile banking systems to bring a modern, consistent look and functionality across computers and mobile devices.

**Members can look forward to new features and benefits.**

The upgraded system will include:

- Enhanced functionality for mobile app users
- More robust options for account alerts
- A more customizable experience
- The ability to set savings goals and track your progress
- Two-factor authentication through email or text message

**Please Provide Your Email Address.**

A valid email address is required to use the new online banking system.

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**Thank You!**

SLFCU’s growth and strength are testaments to our members’ loyalty and fiscal responsibility. We are grateful for the trust you extend to us. Thank you for doing business with Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union.

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By Nicole Riner

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College Saving: A Long Term Reward
By Celeste Martinez, age 16

Although most teenagers’ first instinct with money is to spend it, saving money is ultimately the most beneficial action in the long run. This is true especially for teens who are close to completing high school and heading off to college.

College, while very beneficial, is also very expensive and often brings financial stress. Though most university students feel that burden, it won’t be as serious for those who prepare by saving money before setting foot on a college campus.

This lesson was hard for me to learn in the beginning, especially after I started working during the summer and began to have a larger bank account than I was used to. Initially, I wished to spend all the money I had earned, as saving the money seemed pointless, especially considering college was still a few years away. However, as I got older, I began to realize the importance of saving this money in order to help my parents prepare for the high college tuition and payments that lay in the future.

In learning this, I began to organize my money into three groups: one which I would use for gifts, another for spending money throughout the year, and my savings account at SLFCU—which was the largest of these three groups. It is in this way that not only saving money means putting aside all of it and not getting to leave any for themselves, when truly, simply putting aside just a portion of their income goes a long way. This not only allows for controlled and organized spending, but also proves extremely beneficial and helpful in the future when these funds are needed.

Students should start saving once they begin to earn their own income, even if it is a just a little at a time. It might be helpful to create a system for yourself. For example, set aside some funds for your own enjoyment. This idea is one that is daunting for most students to understand, as they might feel that

SLFCU members age 13-17 are invited to submit an article on a financial topic to be considered for publication in our Dollars & Sense newsletter and on our website. SLFCU will award teens $100 for published articles. Visit www.slfcu.org/TeenArticles for details and to submit an article. SLFCU will review all submissions and respond within 30 days.
Free Monitoring Tool: Mastercard Identity Theft Alerts

Mastercard’s Identity Theft Alert program monitors your online identity and sends you an alert if it detects that your personal information has been exposed to potential fraud or theft. There is no charge to use this service.

Members with an SLFCU debit card or Mastercard Classic credit card may register for the service at www.mastercard.us/idtheftalerts. The service will monitor the information you choose to provide, including:

- Credit and debit cards
- Social Security number
- Driver’s license number
- Passport number
- Financial account information
- Email addresses
- Medical information

If Mastercard identifies a security issue, you’ll receive an email alert that includes details about following up with an identity theft specialist.

An Estate Planning Checklist
What to Check (and Double-check)
Brought to you by the MEMBERS Financial Services Program located at SLFCU

Create a will if you do not have one. A valid will may save your heirs from some expenses linked to probate. A will drafted with the guidance of an estate planning attorney will likely cost you a bit more than a “will in a box,” but may prove worth the expense.

Complement your will with related documents. Depending on your estate planning needs, this could include a trust (or multiple trusts), durable financial and medical powers of attorney, a living will, and other items.

Review your beneficiary designations. Who are the beneficiaries of your retirement plans and/or insurance policies? If you aren’t sure, it is probably a good idea to go back and check the documentation to verify (or change) whom you have designated as beneficiary.

Create asset and debt lists. You should provide your heirs with an asset and debt map they can follow, so that they will be aware of the details of your wealth.

Think about consolidating your stray retirement and/or bank accounts. This could make your assets lists a little shorter. Consolidation means fewer account statements, less paperwork for your heirs, and fewer administrative fees to bear.

Let your heirs know about the causes and charities that mean the most to you. Write down the associations you belong to and the organizations you support.

Select a reliable executor. That person should have copies of your will, power of attorney documents, health care proxy or living will, and any trusts. In fact, any of your loved ones referenced in these documents should also receive copies of them.

By Becky Richards
Keep Your Cards Working While You Travel

Your SLFCU debit and credit cards are protected by a system that detects unusual patterns of activity and may block transactions unless you verify that the transaction is legitimate.

For our security services to reach you while you are away from home, it’s best to list your cell phone number as the main contact number for your accounts. To reduce phone calls requesting you to verify transactions throughout the duration of your trip, notify SLFCU of your travel dates and locations. Call 800.947.5328 or 505.293.0500, visit any branch, or send a secure message within online banking.

Dollars & Sense

Protect Yourself Against Data Breaches
Online and Mobile Banking Upgrade
SLFCU Cards Offer Benefits for Shoppers

On the Calendar

Veterans Day – Observed
Friday, November 10 • All Branches Closed
Branches will be open regular business hours on Saturday, November 11.

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 23 • All Branches Closed

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25 • All Branches Closed

Additional Holiday Hours
Friday, November 24 • Kirtland, Livermore East Closed
December 26 - 29 • Kirtland, Livermore East Reduced Hours
Visit www.slfcu.org/Events for details.

Brought to you by the MEMBERS Financial Services Program* located at SLFCU. Register at www.slfcu.org/Events or by calling 505.293.0500 or 800.947.5328.

Leave Nothing to Chance
Tuesday, November 14, Noon - 1:00 p.m. Tech Park Branch
Tuesday, November 14, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Juan Tabo Branch
Learn about wills & estate planning.

*Securities sold, advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor. CBSI is under contract with the financial institution to make securities available to members. Not NCUA/NCUSIF/FDIC insured, May Lose Value, No Financial Institution Guarantee. Not a deposit of any financial institution. CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc., is a registered broker/dealer in all fifty states of the United States of America. PR-1366386-3-1215-0118