

## ***Fighting Identity Theft in the Digital World***

**By Peter "webdoc" Martin**

In our connected world, it is now easier than ever to transmit data and get information fast. Unfortunately, we aren't the only ones with easy online access. Hackers and cybercriminals have become increasingly skilled at stealing your information. Between free WiFi connections, hacking software and iCloud security issues, you could be at risk for a data breach. Protect yourself from identity theft with these strategies.

### **Passwords**

Does it seem like you have to remember dozens of passwords? Between email, social media accounts and other online services we are always logging in. Wouldn't it be easier to just use the same one for all of your accounts? Even though they be harder to remember, the strongest passwords use a mix of numbers, letters and symbols, are at least 8 characters long and are unique to each account. If you are like me and have a hard time remembering multiple complicated passwords, I recommend you download a service like LastPass or KeePass that stores your passwords automatically and securely.

### **Fake Emails**

We have all been the recipient of one of those inheritance emails. It seems enticing, just share a few pieces of information and you will receive a sizable deposit in your bank account. This is a common technique used by hackers to prey on the unsuspecting and the elderly. Here is a tip, you can't win a contest you didn't enter. Think twice before you click on links or reply to a suspicious email. Chances are, if you do not recognize the sender the email is probably a trap.

### **Free WiFi**

Free WiFi seems like a great service to speed up the internet connection on your smartphone or tablet. However, public WiFi is inherently unsecured. Consider that anything you are doing on your screen is available to anyone else connected to the network. My advice is not be enticed by the convenience of free WiFi, especially if you are considering making a financial transaction like shopping online or checking your bank account balance. If you absolutely have to connect when you're on the go, use your data plan or create your own hotspot, it's safer and could save you big time in the long run.

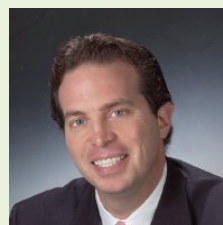
Identity theft has been a crime for years, and digital age makes it that much easier for criminals to steal your data. It only takes a few minutes for hackers to compromise your information and it can take years to rebuild your credit. Protect yourself from economic homicide by using strong passwords, ignoring suspicious emails and avoiding public WiFi networks.

For more information about online safety, visit: <http://www.yourwebaddress.com>

Scan here for quick access to learn more:



### **Peter "WebDoc" Martin**



Peter "webdoc" Martin is renowned for creating innovative and cutting-edge programs, systems and tools to facilitate the auto dealer's success in today's market. Martin is the President of Cactus Sky Communications.