

Act fast to beat cybercrime



WHILE phone hacking has been hogging the headlines, computer hacking is also on the rise. Here Surrey IT consultancy ramsac gives tips to help victims of hacking to limit the damage.

THINK YOU may have fallen foul of cybercrime? You can't turn the clock back but by acting fast and following these simple steps you can lessen the damage.

- Change your passwords on the site where your data was breached and on any other accounts with the same password or a variation. For better security, use passwords of at least nine characters including a mixture of letters, numbers and punctuation marks and use different passwords for each account.
- Be vigilant. If your email security has been compromised, you might see an increase in the levels of spam you receive. Be wary of anything that looks suspicious and do not click on any links or open attachments that you were not expecting.
- Keep an eye on your post. If hackers obtained your details online, they may well have your home address too.
- Check your financial statements carefully and query anything that does not look right. Get prompt advice from your financial institutions following a suspected data breach. Check whether they can provide email alerts whenever your bank card is used.
- Set up a fraud alert on your credit report. This alerts credit agencies that you may be subject to ID fraud and to look for anything suspicious. Contact the FTC for details.
- Make a yearly check on your credit report. Keeping an eye on your credit score should alert you to any problems, but ensure you are dealing with a reputable company before you submit personal details online.

WWW. ramsac.com