

A simple guide to gaming security

What to watch out for to make sure you're not burnt online

The gaming industry has come a long way since Sonic the Hedgehog frolicked on the Sega Mega Drive over 20 years ago. Modern gaming platforms including Sony PlayStation 3, Microsoft Xbox 360 and World of Warcraft now feature advanced functionality allowing users to message each other while they play, create avatars and even buy and sell virtual goods online.

Gaming has become a multi-billion pound industry, but where users and money go cyber criminals are sure to follow. Users should take the same precautions when playing their favourite games as they would buying goods online, or interacting with their friends on social networks.

HERE'S TREND MICRO'S LIST OF TOP TIPS FOR MORE SECURE GAMING:

Log-in security

Make sure passwords and log-ins are hard to guess - definitely not the default credentials and ideally a mixture of numbers, letters and symbols. Also, make sure you use separate passwords for all of your online accounts in case any one of them is breached.

PC/browser Security

Make sure your PC is up-to-date with the latest AV security, OS and application patches and you are using the latest, most secure version of your browser and plug-ins to minimise the risk of infection from viruses and other threats.

ID fraud awareness

Don't share any personally identifiable details online with other players. They may be fraudsters looking to harvest your details in order to commit ID fraud.

Downloads links and attachments

Be wary of opening any files or links in emails and Instant Messages. Always verify the authenticity of any downloads before clicking. Be especially cautious of any emails purporting to come from your gaming provider and asking for user details or personal information. This is almost certainly a phishing attack.

Connections

Never play on unsecured or unknown Wi-Fi connections.

Web site security: You should be using a website with SSL security (it should be displayed clearly on the site) which will encrypt your information as it is sent over the internet and minimise the risk of data loss through interception.

Credit vs debit

If you have to buy online, make sure you use a credit rather than debit card as it will usually afford more protection should you be defrauded.

Happy gaming!

