

Technology To-Do Suggestions 2023

This is one of a series of articles provided by the Oakmont Technology Learning Center on the use of technology by seniors.

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Since it's still January, the season for new year's resolutions, how about considering technology resolutions to start the year off right? Here are some suggestions you may not have thought of.

Computers/devices. Make sure you are current on all your software, app, and operating system updates. If your computer or phone/tablet is no longer supported with manufacturer updates, it's a security risk and it's time to replace it. Prepare and budget for end-of-life for your digital devices. Our computers and devices do not last forever, needing to be replaced every few years to keep up with security threats and the horsepower required by our apps. When a device is at end-of-life, make sure it's scrubbed free of your files and personal information and recycle it at an e-waste event.

File backups. Make sure your files are backed up, either to the Cloud or to an external drive that is stored elsewhere than your home. Backups can be automated. Speaking of backups, it's time to scan in those pictures in your photo albums you've been meaning to scan for years and store them in the Cloud as well as on an external drive. With all the rain lately, we aren't thinking about fires and evacuations, but putting your precious photos in the Cloud and on a backup device will become critical with future fire evacuations.

Hacks/Phishing/Scams. Lower your chances of being hacked or scammed. Start using multi-factor authentication and do some password maintenance (more on passwords coming in February 11th article). Get familiar with the current scams; the e-mails and voice mails are starting to look "real" at first glance. Protect your privacy online. Check your settings on apps you use. There are also new tools to remove your personal information from Google searches.

Digital Estate Planning. Think about updating your current will to add digital estate instructions. Add legacy contacts to your online accounts (Facebook, Apple, Google, password managers, and more). Check out the Oct. 8, 2022 article on digital estate planning and resources available.

Tech Support. Know where you're going to go for tech support before you need it. The Washington Post has some helpful information on privacy and avoiding scams. Clickable links to Washington Post resources are available with the electronic copy of this article at www.oakmont-learning.org under Tech Articles.

Other resources referred to in article:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-stat/graphics/technology/help-desk/AvoidingScams101.pdf?itid=lk inline manual 5&itid=lk inline manual 12>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/interactive/2021/privacy-settings-guide/?itid=lk inline manual 42>