

# Press Release

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## Halifax launches online security centre

Halifax has launched a new Security Centre on its online banking website to help keep customers even safer while using the internet.

The new service, available via [www.halifax.co.uk](http://www.halifax.co.uk), gives advice on tools such as firewalls and anti-virus software, along with tips for choosing a suitable password and a quiz to test customers' security knowledge.

To help users understand some of the jargon associated with email and the internet, the Security Centre also provides guides and demos to teach customers about phishing, trojans and viruses.

Shoomon Perry, head of ecommerce, said:

"We make every effort to ensure customers' online security, but there are some simple steps everyone can take to stay safe online.

"Using a firewall to prevent hackers from accessing your computer is a wise step, as is choosing a password that is hard for someone else to guess but easy for you to remember."

Halifax is supporting the Get Safe Online 2007 Awareness Week, which is taking place from 12 to 16 November. GetSafeOnline.org is a joint initiative between the Government, the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and leading businesses which aims to help individuals and small businesses be more aware of the need to protect themselves against internet security risks.

There are some basic steps you can take to protect your personal data, be more aware of the risks and reduce the chance of becoming a victim.

### **Bank online safely**

Banking online is very convenient but you have to protect your user ID, password and personal details so others cannot access your account in your name. If your personal details fall into the hands of thieves, all your data could be compromised. Keeping computers and security details safe is a critical part of data security.

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## Easy ways to stay safe

- Use strong passwords. Your passwords are the keys to your internet life, so don't make it easy for hackers to guess your password. A strong password is one that is easy for you to remember – so you will not need to write it down – but hard for someone else to guess. Do not use family names, birthdays or sequential or repeated numbers/letters such as 12345678, 66666666 or ABCDEFGH.
- Install firewalls and anti-virus software and ensure that these are kept up to date. If you access the internet via a WiFi connection, make sure it is secure.
- When transacting online in a public place, such as a library or internet café, make sure that nobody is looking at your screen or keyboard as you type.
- Dispose of personal data securely. Shred items such as utility bills, credit card and bank statements.

Ends.

## Editors' Notes:

The new Halifax online Security Centre is available at:  
<http://www.halifax.co.uk/SecurityandPrivacy/security.asp>

To find out more about Get Safe Online 2007, visit:  
[www.GetSafeOnline.org](http://www.GetSafeOnline.org)