

Security Risks on Apps and Websites

Learn tips and tricks for avoiding pitfalls and risks on apps and websites.

1. What Security Risks Exist on Apps and Websites?

Some apps and websites can carry a number of security risks:

- They might contain malware
- They might put your personal data at risk with poor data storage practices
- They might use poor practices for logins
- They might expose you to invasive third-party trackers and cookies

Malicious apps and websites can put your personal information and security at serious risk.

2. How Can You Avoid Risky Apps?

- Install apps from recognized and legitimate sources, like your phone's app store
- Check reviews and do some research before you install anything on your device
- Pay attention to permissions. Make sure you understand what the app is doing and make sure you are comfortable with the permissions the app is requesting

3. How Can You Avoid Risky Websites?

- **Use a safe search mode to filter out explicit results**
These sorts of results often contain security risks, like malware available. Safe search mode is on most major search engines, such as Chrome.

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- **Search for websites rather than trying to type in the URL**

Scam sites often use URLs similar to real sites, and your accidental typo could direct you to a site filled with malware.
- **Check the URL**

Make sure it is what you think it is and avoid clicking suspicious links.
- **Check shortened links with a URL expander**

Expanders include CheckShortURL or Expand URL.
- **Make sure the site you are visiting has an “https” in the URL**

HTTPS means the site is secure. When it is just HTTP, that is less secure.
- **Pay attention to warnings from your browser**

If your browser tells you the site is not secure, you should definitely avoid it
- **Consider what the site is promoting or offering**

Sites that have free downloads of software or movies or sites that ask for your personal and banking information when it doesn't seem necessary should be treated with suspicion.