

Online Security Survey

Google / Harris Poll

February 2019



Google, in partnership with Harris Poll, surveyed a nationally representative sample of 3,000 adults (ages 16-50+) living in the U.S. to understand their beliefs and behaviors around online security.

People are confident in their ability to protect their online accounts

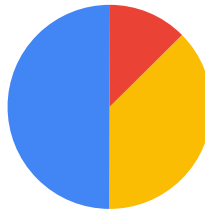
69%

Give themselves an A or B when it comes to protecting their online accounts

59%

Believe that their accounts are safer from online threats than the average person

Password reuse is still a common practice



- 52%** reuse the same password for multiple (but not all) accounts
- 35%** Use a different password for all accounts
- 13%** Reuse the same password for all their accounts

Most understand the importance of recovery information

87% Have a secondary email address tied to their accounts so they can be recovered

73% Have a mobile device tied to their accounts so they can be recovered



ONLY 24%

Use a password manager, despite many people saying they need a better way to track passwords

There's still a gap between understanding and action

79%

Believe that updating security software is very important

33%

Don't regularly update or know if they update their applications

Security habits by generation



16-24
YEAR OLDS



50+
YEAR OLDS

Are more likely to:



Use two-factor authentication



Regularly update their applications

Are more likely to:



Believe that updating security software is very important



Use a different password for every account

Less likely to:



Have changed their main account's password within the past year



Know what "phishing" means

Less likely to:



Link recovery information to their accounts



Use password managers

There's still room for more education about online threats & security tools

60% Could define "phishing" correctly

55% Could define "password manager" correctly

55% Could define "two-step verification" correctly

32% Could correctly define all three terms