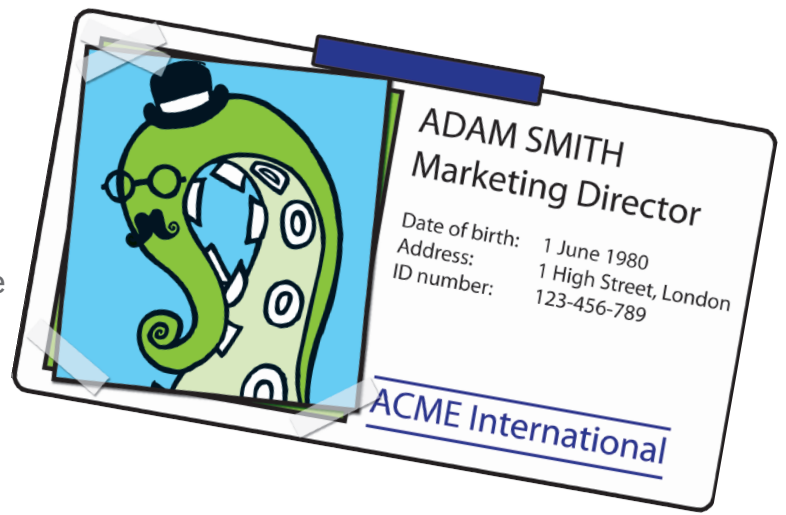


# Top tips: Avoid ID theft

Don't let thieves steal your identity! Follow these top tips to make sure that your personal details stay safe and prevent ID theft.



## 1. Secure your computers

Computers hold lots of personal information. Only use computers with up-to-date security software, firewalls and patches, and never leave laptops where thieves can get to them.

## 2. Shred once dead

ID thieves go through rubbish bins. Tear or shred all documents that contain personal information before you throw them away.

## 3. Keep your wallet light

Wallets are a goldmine to identity thieves. Remove bank cards and identity documents from your wallet if you don't need them.

## 4. Be careful what you share

Think before revealing potentially sensitive data on social networking sites or in emails, such as your date of birth or address.

## 5. Use strong passwords

Make the passwords for your computer and website logins really hard to crack! Use upper and lower case characters, numbers and symbols, and never share them with others.

## 6. Protect your credit cards

Never give your credit or debit card details on the phone or internet without being absolutely sure about the recipient – and make sure your cards are never out of sight.

## 7. Keep your phone ID free

Mobile phones are easily lost or stolen. Don't store sensitive information such as internet banking details, passwords and PINS on your mobile phone.

## 8. Shop safely

Take extra care when buying online or over the phone. If you are unsure about the vendor, don't go ahead.

## 9. Think before you click

Never follow unsolicited links in emails or social networking sites – they can lead to bogus websites that capture any confidential data you enter.

## 10. Monitor your mail

A lot of personal information is sent by traditional post. Make sure your mailbox is secure and keep track of all sensitive documents you expect through the post.