Think Identity Theft won’t happen to you?
It’s more likely than you think.

12.2 MILLION
U.S. Identity Fraud Victims

$26.4 BILLION
Total U.S. financial loss to identity theft in 2014

$5,130
Average financial loss for a victim of identity theft

Texas ranks 4th in the nation for number of identity theft complaints

130 out of every 100,000 Texans have experienced identity theft

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, 2014

IT.tamu.edu Texas A&M Information Technology
# 6 Easy Steps to Protect Your Identity TODAY

1. **Use a password manager app** to store and organize passwords in an encrypted form only accessed with a strong master password. Learn more at u.tamu.edu/password_genius.

2. **Make copies of wallet content.** Carry only one credit card, and avoid spare keys, gift cards and receipts that give thieves clues to where you live, your accounts and your identity.

3. **Don’t trust emails or phone calls from financial institutions.** Always type a bank’s website address into the browser or call them directly. Phishing and spoofing emails appear authentic and attempt to lure account holders into sharing account information.

4. **Set up bank withdrawal alerts** to notify you when money is withdrawn from your account. Ask your financial institution how to sign up for these alerts.

5. **Monitor or sign up for a service** to help monitor credit transactions. Check your credit report for free (annualcreditreport.com), once every 12 months, from each of the main reporting companies.

6. **Get on the federal Do Not Call List** (donotcall.gov) and the No Junk Mail List (optoutprescreen.com)

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## When Identity Theft Happens to You...

- **Check your credit report for unexpected or unauthorized activity.**
  Place fraud alerts to prevent new accounts from being opened without verification.

- **Contact companies, including banks, where you have accounts.**
  Close or suspend accounts you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

- **File a report with the local police.**
  You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

- **Consider what other information the thief may have accessed.**
  For example, if a thief accesses your Social Security number, contact the Social Security Administration. Or if your driver’s license or car registration are stolen, contact the Department of Motor Vehicles.

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Read more about how to protect yourself at https://u.tamu.edu/protectmyself