Online privacy and safety

Common EU rules guarantee a high standard of privacy online. The EU is committed to ensuring citizens, and particularly children, are safe online.

© Image by metamorworks - iStock Getty Images

ePrivacy

Each time we go online, we are entrusting our personal information to the websites we use and to the companies that provide us with the Internet. This information can range from our names and contact details, to our likes and dislikes, to our credit card information.

EU-wide rules can help protect our data when we browse the Internet. The EU is currently discussing new privacy rules that build trust and security online for the Digital Decade. The rules will give us greater control over our data and devices. And, they will update current ePrivacy rules to cover new forms of communication online.

New ePrivacy rules go hand in hand with other EU initiatives to ensure our privacy online. For example, the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) ensures our personal data can only be gathered under strict conditions and for legitimate purposes.

A better Internet for children

Around one in three Internet users is a child. Children are accessing content online at younger and
While there are excellent opportunities for learning and creativity online, there are also risks. Children may be exposed to fake news, cyberbullying, privacy breaches, harmful content and grooming.

The EU launched its Strategy for a Better Internet for Children with the aim of introducing specific measures for young people online.

To create a better internet for children, the Commission has set goals to:

- encourage more creative and educational content for children
- foster awareness and empowerment through digital literacy and online safety courses
- create a safe environment through age appropriate privacy settings and parental controls
- tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation online

Subscribe to the latest news on this topic and more

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
PRESS RELEASE | 22 February 2022
Commission to invest €292 million in digital technologies and cybersecurity

The Commission has opened the second set of calls for proposals of the Digital Europe Programme, which follows the adoption of the work programmes and a first set of calls in
La Commission investira 292 millions d’euros dans les technologies numériques et la cybersécurité

La Commission a lancé aujourd’hui la deuxième série d’appels à propositions du programme pour une Europe numérique, qui fait suite à l’adoption des programmes de travail et d’une première série d’appels en novembre 2021.

Safer Internet Day 2022: together for a better internet

Tomorrow, 8 February, Safer Internet Day will be celebrated worldwide with the theme “Together for a better internet”.

Commission welcomes political agreement to boost data sharing and support European data spaces

The Commission welcomes the political agreement reached between the European Parliament and EU Member States on a European Data Governance Act.

Browse Strengthening trust and security
The strategy for a better Internet for children provides actions to empower young people as they explore the digital world.

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/online-privacy