



CARRICK ON MONEY

Stop being so complacent about fraud and ID theft



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Attempts at credit card fraud are up 42 per cent over the past two years, and cases of fraud where someone poses as a real person when applying for credit have jumped 84 per cent over the past five years. The response from too many people to rising fraud levels is a yawn.

OK, I'm guilty of it myself. The security software on my computer expired and I'm getting constant reminders to resubscribe. I've been procrastinating, but no longer. After reading [a media release](#) from the credit-monitoring company Equifax about fraud, I think we all need to step up our game.

Equifax did a survey that found people were sharing less on social media and increasingly checking their credit reports, which can be helpful in limiting fraud. But there was a year-over-year decline – from 57 per cent to 52 per cent – in the number of people who said they shredded their personal documents when done with them. The number of people who updated the security software on their computer fell to 35 per cent from 42 per cent.

Fewer than half the people in the survey regularly updated their security passwords, while only four in 10 admitted to double-checking their credit card and bank statements. And yet, 82 per cent believe identity theft is becoming more prevalent.

I have a shredder at home, I checked my credit report fairly recently, and I examine my banking statements pretty closely. I don't have security software for my computer, but I plan to take care of that right away.

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