The Colony Group

PERSPECTIVES
*Cyber Security*

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET HACKED

From booking travel to snapping up Black Friday deals, online activity tends to surge during the holidays. That makes October the perfect time for Cybersecurity Awareness Month — and for you to take appropriate measures to protect your digital environment.

Even so, a determined criminal could get ahold of your information through a data breach. If you suspect your cybersecurity has been compromised, here are some important steps to take right away.

**ISOLATE YOUR COMPUTER.** Disconnect your computer from Wi-Fi and the internet. Your goal is to cut off access and keep any malware from spreading.

**CHANGE THE PASSWORD ON YOUR COMPUTER.** Next, use an unaffected device (such as your phone or another computer) to change the passwords to all your online accounts. While you're at it, set up two-factor authentication on all the accounts that offer it.

**CALL YOUR BANKS.** They'll likely ask you to verify the most recent transactions. They'll also cancel your existing cards and send you new ones.

**PLACE A FRAUD ALERT.** A fraud alert lets creditors know your personal data may have been compromised and they need to verify your information before opening any accounts in your name. You can put a fraud alert on your file at all three major credit bureaus (Experian, TransUnion and Equifax) by contacting any one of them.

**CONSULT A CYBER SECURITY EXPERT.** An experienced security professional (like those available through our Curated by Colony services) can help you remediate your cybersecurity practices, navigate fraud issues and protect yourself going forward.

Breaches or hacks are unfortunately more common than most of us would like to think. But that doesn't mean you're defenseless. By taking swift and methodical action, you can mitigate the impact and regain control of your digital life.

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**EVAN COHEN**

Director, Information Technology

*Evan is the Director of Information Technology at The Colony Group. In his role, he is responsible for building, maintaining, and enhancing IT Infrastructure and experience. He is responsible for helping to make sure that team members can leverage computer systems and technologies to best service their clients. Evan acts as a point of escalation for IT team members to address daily issues and to engage in knowledge-sharing efforts to develop increased technical expertise of team members. He is also responsible for building and enhancing Colony's cybersecurity program and capabilities to protect against ever-evolving threats. As needed, Evan aids leadership and compliance teams to enhance capabilities, vet new vendors, and develop, implement and enforce policies and procedures.*

**CONTACT**

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