How a few simple steps can give you peace of mind!

Advice you've probably seen

1. Install updates
2. Backup regularly
3. Encrypt your data

Is it any good?

Updates usually include security fixes that make it much harder for hackers to break into your devices. While many devices can automatically install patches, they can occur at inconvenient times. Other devices need manual updates, but in both cases it is important to make sure you don't put it off too long.

Backing up is a very effective way of protecting your important data when something goes wrong. Unfortunately, it is not always done automatically and many of us only make backups when we remember to do so. While this is better than nothing, there are solutions that allow backups to happen automatically.

Encrypting data aims to protect your information from being read by hackers. Sensitive personal information, security critical data, or work-related data are examples of this, but encrypting data does not protect you if a scammer can trick you into revealing your information.

Simple steps to be more prepared

Know your devices and whether they are up-to-date: make a list of the devices you own and make sure you check to see if they have updates available. While you're at it, look at the data you have, and backup the data you care about (don't forget, settings and preferences are important information).

Investigate automatic backup options: some devices already offer backup options to the cloud or to a local drive, but it can be worth looking into a local backup option for all your devices. For example, Network Attached Storage (NAS) servers can be configured to be a local backup, and are useful should you have a large number of devices to backup.

Plan to experience a disaster: your data could accidentally get deleted or damaged, your identity could get stolen, or someone might break into an online account. Plan for this and make sure you know where to recover your data from, how to regain access to your online account, and what signs might indicate someone has stolen your identity.

Don't forget

It is much easier to deal with a problem if you are prepared. A few simple steps to ensure you know what data you have and care about, where it is kept, and whether you know what to do in the case of a disaster will give you peace of mind. And if the worse happens, it can make the difference between a small inconvenience and a major problem.