



Protect Your Wealth from Online Risks



Cybersecurity is often viewed as a technology issue, but today it's just as much a financial one. As more of our banking, investing, and document sharing happens online, fraud tactics have evolved alongside that shift. Rather than trying to break through security systems, many scams now rely on convincing people to share sensitive information or approve fraudulent transactions. For investors, digital security has become an important part of protecting personal information, financial accounts, and long-term financial well-being.

Cybercriminals Are Targeting People, Not Just Institutions

Institutions across different sectors continue to invest heavily in cybersecurity, making direct attacks on their systems more difficult. As a result, many fraudsters have shifted their focus to human behavior.

Social engineering scams often appear as routine communications, such as account alerts, verification requests, or notices of unusual activity. Others may impersonate someone you know or a trusted organization. These messages are designed to create a sense of urgency, prompting quick decisions before you have time to verify whether the request is legitimate. Understanding these tactics can help you recognize potential fraud before it becomes a problem.

A Moment of Verification Can Make All the Difference

One of the simplest ways to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of hacking is to pause before responding to an unexpected request.

If you're asked to send money, share sensitive information, or provide account access, take a moment to verify the request through a trusted source, such as the organization's official website or a verified phone number. Taking that extra step helps reduce the likelihood of responding to a fraudulent email, text or phone call and supports more confident financial decision-making.

Strong Security Comes from Multiple Layers

Passwords remain an important part of protecting your accounts, but they're only one piece of a broader security strategy.

Tools such as multi-factor authentication, regular software updates, and periodic account reviews each address different types of risk. Downloading applications only from trusted sources and, when appropriate, freezing your credit can provide additional safeguards. Together, these layers make it significantly more difficult for unauthorized users to gain access to your accounts.

Your Digital Identity Is Part of Your Financial Life

Your email account, financial platforms, and mobile devices often serve as gateways to your most sensitive financial information. Protecting these access points requires both strong security settings and thoughtful daily habits.

As fraudulent messages become more sophisticated and harder to distinguish from legitimate communications, taking time to verify requests independently becomes even more important. Managing your digital identity is increasingly part of protecting your financial future.

Consistent Habits Help Protect What You've Built

Cybersecurity isn't about becoming a technology master. It's about building consistent habits that help reduce risk over time.

Verifying unexpected requests, keeping your devices and software up to date, and reviewing unfamiliar account activity all contribute to better protection. As digital tools continue to shape the way we manage our finances, these everyday practices can help safeguard both your personal information and the financial life you've worked hard to build.

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a brown jacket over a white turtleneck, is looking down at a green smartphone in her hands. She is outdoors, with trees and a clear sky in the background. The image is partially obscured by a semi-transparent text box at the bottom.

CONCLUSION

If you have concerns about the security of your financial accounts or receive an unexpected request related to your finances, contact your financial advisor. They can help you verify information and direct you to the appropriate financial institution or other resources when needed.



DISCLOSURES

6 Meridian is a group comprised of investment professionals registered with Hightower Advisors, LLC, an SEC registered investment adviser. Registration as an investment advisor does not imply a certain level of skill or training. Some investment professionals may also be registered with Hightower Securities, LLC, member FINRA and SIPC. Advisory services are offered through Hightower Advisors, LLC. Securities are offered through Hightower Securities, LLC. All information referenced herein is from sources believed to be reliable. 6 Meridian and Hightower Advisors, LLC have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this document. 6 Meridian and Hightower Advisors, LLC or any of its affiliates make no representations or warranties, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information or for statements or errors or omissions, or results obtained from the use of this information. 6 Meridian and Hightower Advisors, LLC or any of its affiliates assume no liability for any action made or taken in reliance on or relating in any way to the information. This document and the materials contained herein were created for informational purposes only; the opinions expressed are solely those of the author(s), and do not represent those of Hightower Advisors, LLC or any of its affiliates. 6 Meridian and Hightower Advisors, LLC or any of its affiliates do not provide tax or legal advice. This material was not intended or written to be used or presented to any entity as tax or legal advice. Clients are urged to consult their tax and/or legal advisor for related questions.