

Seahorse Financial Advisers Inc.

Our Recommendations: Identity Theft and Cyber-Security

These are our latest recommendations to protect your identity and your investment accounts from the proliferating threats of identity theft and account hacking. In addition to safe practices in your internet use (an internet security program such as Norton, do not respond to Phishing, never e-mail your account or social security numbers), we recommend:

1. **Secure Password.** A secure log-on to your brokerage account is your most important line of defense.

We, and your brokers, all recommend that:

- Your password to your investment account be complex (letters, numbers and symbols)
- Your password to your investment account be unique (not used for other sites, like internet shopping)
- You change your password at least twice a year, if only by one character.

2. **Secure log-on device.**

Charles Schwab offers top-of-the-line security through a mechanical log-on device, a fob which is picture here on my NYC laptop. You attach this fob to your computer and it generates a unique password known only to you and Schwab for each log-on. We use and recommend a fob.

For the latest security recommendations from Charles Schwab, on your web main page, go to Accounts>Service>Security Center



3. **Two-Step log-Ons**

Some brokers offer “two step” log-ons where in addition to entering your password you receive by cell phone a code from the broker to complete log on. We recommend this.

4. **Verbal Password for telephone requests to the Broker**

Charles Schwab also offers a “Verbal Password” which you set up with Schwab and is known only to you, to assist Schwab in identifying you when you call Schwab for account service, such as move money requests. This is in lieu of questions from your background, such as “your mother’s maiden name.” We recommend this.

5. **Identity Monitoring Service**

We recommend an identity monitoring service that notifies you if a financial account is opened in your name or your information at credit agencies is changed. We use Lifelock.