

Identity Theft

By David Rose | YELLOW DOG Recruiting

Ok. You've heard all about identity theft. It's been talked about for some time. Identity theft is a billion dollar industry and growing everyday. If you're smart, you do the basics – don't give out your social security number, shred your personal files, and check your credit report with each of the credit bureaus. (You can get a free credit report every year from each of the credit bureaus – Experian, Transunion and Equifax.)

A few other things to consider – opt out of pre-approved credit offers and request passwords be used to access your personal files at all banks and retail businesses that you frequent.

There is something else to consider.

What happens to your information when you post it on the internet?

Often, someone who seeks new career options will post his or her resume online. The internet is a great tool and really helps to make the world a smaller place. If unmanaged, however, the internet could quickly become a tool used by predators.

So, here are a few tips:

- **Establish, regularly update, and keep passcodes in a safe place**
- **Never put your social security number on your resume**
- **Track every company for which you apply so you can review and follow up**
- **Limit the length of time you keep your resume on any website; you can take down and repost which will allow for better control of your information**

The advent and usage of online networking tools helps us to keep close to friends, family and colleagues around the world. Pictures, videos, presentations, stories...they help us stay connected with the people who are important to us. Don't forget, your connections, their connections and their connections' connections can usually see your information too.

The web of people you can connect to is huge...and that's good, and bad.

So, don't be fearful. Be smart. (Exploring a service to monitor your credit reports may not be a bad investment either.)