

# Whatever you buy online this Christmas, be sure to shop safe

## Five Tips to Take the Worry Out of Online Shopping



1. **G**reen Address Bar and other Secure Site Indicators
2. **R**ecord ALL the details
3. **E**valuate if the data is necessary and protected
4. **E**nsure the offer or advertisement is legitimate
5. **N**ever use an unsafe method of payment

The festive season is approaching fast which can only mean the time has come to start thinking about Christmas shopping.

Thanks to online stores, many of us no longer need to brave the cold weather and long queues to purchase our Christmas gifts. But where there's an increase in online shopping so is there an increase in online fraud. According to RSA's historical online fraud reports, from January to August 2012 there is an 82% increase viewed in phishing fraud compared with January to August 2011.

Many online stores are dedicated to customer security by using advanced technology such as the Extended Validation (EV) SSL 'Green Address Bar' to protect customer information and transactions. Whatever the technology a website may use, you should always make sure that your online purchases are secure and the retailer you are buying from is legitimate.

GlobalSign is a specialist in internet security, securing identities, websites and transactions and have provided the following top five security tips when shopping this Christmas. Stay safe this Christmas by remembering GlobalSign's **G-R-E-E-N** steps.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FIVE G-R-E-E-N TIPS...**

## G is for... Green Address Bar and other Secure Site Indicators

Make sure the website you are using protects your details and your identity by checking that it shows the following 'Secure Site Indicators':

### Green Address Bar

This shows the website is using the highest level of SSL security (an identity assurance and encryption technology that tells you who you're dealing with and protects your details). It enables you to check if the company is a legitimately incorporated entity as it shows the company's identity details.

### https:// and the Padlock

Shoppers should always look for the https:// in the browser address bar and the padlock in browsers that will indicate if a website is using SSL to ensure that the data sent to the retailer (such as financial, personal and user account information) is encrypted and secure and cannot be tampered with by an external online fraudster.

At the very least look for the https:// and padlock, but seeing the Green Address Bar is your guarantee that you are dealing with a legitimately incorporated organisation and your transactions will be encrypted using the latest security technologies.

## R is for... Record ALL the details

Make sure you know the merchant's full address, especially if it's outside of your own country. If you are ordering something from another country double check for any additional delivery costs.

Once you've paid for the gift, there is still the risk it might not be delivered. Be prepared by following the tips below:

- Keep records of all your online purchases in a separate safe email folder so that they are easy to locate
- Print out a copy of all transactions and keep them safe until you receive the delivery
- At the time of purchase make a note of the merchant's contact number or email address
- To ensure that the gift will arrive, insist on a tracked delivery

## E is for... Evaluate if your data is necessary and protected

Your privacy is important, protect it at all times to minimise the possibility of identity theft. You can do this by:

- Using a different username / password combination than the ones you use for your banking, webmail and other accounts
- If the retailer is asking for a lot of personal information, check their privacy policy which should always be presented on their web site. The privacy policy outlines how your personal information will be used and should state whether your details will be passed to third parties
- If they start asking for details that you think are irrelevant to the purchase, such as date of birth, bank account details etc, start questioning why. These details should not be necessary to process your purchase

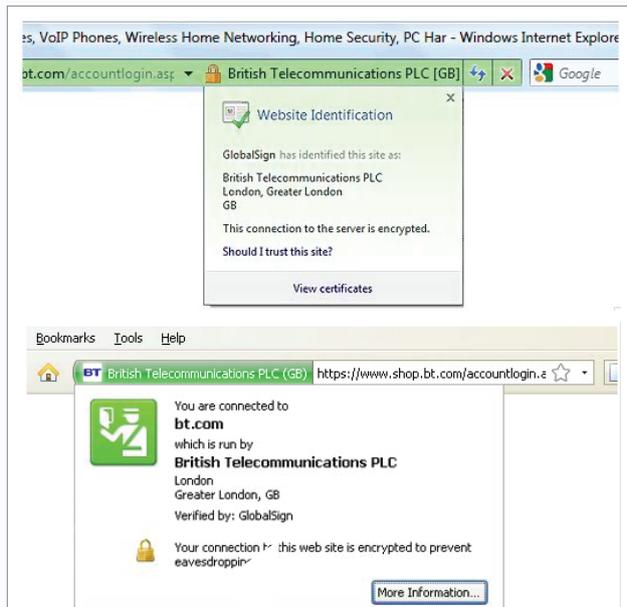
In today's current economic climate online fraud is on the rise, as you unwind to enjoy the Christmas break ensure that you remain vigilant.

Remember to follow the G-R-E-E-N steps to make sure it's only gifts that you are giving away this Christmas, not your personal identity.

To find out more information on the latest SSL and anti-fraud technology please visit

<http://www.globalsign.co.uk/ssl-information-center>

<http://www.globalsign.eu/ssl-information-center>



### Use the latest versions of EV SSL enabled browsers to benefit from the Green Address Bar:



## E is for... Ensure the offer or advertisement is legitimate

If an offer appears to be too good to be true, it probably is! Be vigilant of unbelievable offers online, regardless of whether you know the retailer "offering" them.

Phishers (fraudsters masquerading as well known companies and brands) send millions of emails daily and place thousands of online adverts offering the best "cannot miss" deals. If you receive an email or see an online advertisement be sure to check that the URL in the browser address bar is the real URL of the company it claims to be. Be extra wary of IP addresses (addresses similar to http://245.123.123.1/special-offer). If you're still uncertain, call the company to confirm the offer is legitimate by searching for their contact details in your preferred search engine.

## N is for... Never use an unsafe method of payment

Credit cards are the most secure way of purchasing online. If the merchant does not accept credit cards, look for other methods of making a safe payment such as PayPal or other reputable payment processor. Using debit cards and other methods of direct payments use your money, but credit cards use the credit card issuer's money. This means there's a much higher chance that the credit card issuer will support you if there should there be any issues.

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