

Holiday Shopping Online and Privacy Twitter Chat

On Dec. 10, 2014, FTC Commissioner Maureen Ohlhausen and Aditi Jhaveri, a consumer education specialist in the Division of Consumer and Business Education participated in a Twitter chat hosted by @DataPrivacyDay. The chat was part of a series leading up to next year's Data Privacy Day. Focus of the chat was safe online shopping and protecting your privacy. The hashtag was #ChatDPD. Comm'r Ohlhausen used her account, [@MOhlhausenFTC](#) and Aditi used [@FTC](#).

Note: Tweets in their original order remain on the FTC's Twitter accounts for as long as Twitter allows.

RT @MOhlhausenFTC: Excited to join #ChatDPD at 3pm ET today to answer questions about protecting your #privacy online during holiday shopping.

Want tips to shop safely online this season, incl protecting your #privacy? Join us for @DataPrivacyDay's #ChatDPD - starts in 10 mins.

Hi, everyone. This is Aditi from the FTC, the nation's consumer protection agency. Comm'r @MOhlhausenFTC is here with us too! #ChatDPD

RT @MOhlhausenFTC: Happy to join #chatDPD to share some tips for protecting your #privacy when shopping online.

RT @DataPrivacyDay: There are a lot of amazing deals for the holidays. How can we know if a deal is real or a scam? #ChatDPD #DPD15

If you get a text/email that offers a free gift in exchange for your personal info, chances are it's a scam: <http://go.usa.gov/FxKJ> #ChatDPD

RT @MOhlhausenFTC: Be wary of "free" stuff. A message that asks you to click on a link to get to a free deal might download a virus instead. #ChatDPD

RT @DataPrivacyDay: On that note, how can we know if an online shopping website is fake or not? #ChatDPD #DPD15

Search the name of the site along with words like review, complaint or scam. #ChatDPD

If you haven't heard of the company/site, look for reviews. Read a few reviews so you're not relying on just one. #ChatDPD

RT @DataPrivacyDay: In order to complete an #online transaction, some personal information is needed. What info is NOT needed? #ChatDPD #DPD15

Always keep your SSN close to the vest. Learn more about protecting your personal info online and off: <http://go.usa.gov/FcVw>. #ChatDPD

RT @MOhlhausenFTC: You should not have to provide your Social Security Number for online transactions. #ChatDPD

RT @DataPrivacyDay: What should we know before making a purchase on a mobile device or with an app? #ChatDPD #DPD15

Shopping apps may collect info about what you buy and how you paid. Look for apps that tell you what they do with your data. #ChatDPD

Check out the FTC's article on shopping apps to learn more: <http://go.usa.gov/FcmF>. #ChatDPD

RT @MOhlhausenFTC: Before you enter credit card or other financial info online, check if the web address starts with https. The "s" stands for secure. #ChatDPD

RT @DataPrivacyDay: And what about using public #WiFi to make purchases? What should everyone know? #ChatDPD #DPD15

If you're not asked for a password to join a Wi-Fi hotspot, hackers might be able to see what you send – like financial info. #ChatDPD

Using an app to shop online? Use a secure Wi-Fi network. That way, if the app doesn't encrypt your info, the network does. #ChatDPD

Watch the FTC's video on using public Wi-Fi safely to learn more: <http://go.usa.gov/FcJW> . #ChatDPD

RT @MOhlhausenFTC: Most public Wi-Fi networks aren't secure, which means they may not encrypt/protect the sensitive info you enter for purchases. #ChatDPD

RT @DataPrivacyDay: How do you protect your family's digital footprint once the new devices and online games are in the house? #ChatDPD #DPD15

You don't have to be a tech expert to talk to your family about online safety. Get some talking points here: <http://go.usa.gov/FxZk> #ChatDPD

RT @DataPrivacyDay: How do you teach children (or even grandparents) about sharing and protecting personal information? #ChatDPD #DPD15

Remind your family to check their devices' privacy settings and think about when it might make sense to turn off location. #ChatDPD

Share the FTC's online safety brochures with family & friends this holiday season. Order free copies here: <http://go.usa.gov/FxbC>. #ChatDPD

RT @MOhlhausenFTC: Remind your family that financial info, SSNs, and passwords are private and should stay that way. #ChatDPD

RT @DataPrivacyDay: Let's end this #ChatDPD with your top #privacy #tip for online holiday shopping. #DPD15

Sign up for the FTC's blog to get holiday shopping tips in your inbox! Sign up here: <http://go.usa.gov/FciQ>. #ChatDPD

Watch the FTC's video for useful online shopping tips to help protect your information and save money: <http://go.usa.gov/FcNH> #ChatDPD

RT @MOhlhausenFTC: Check your free credit report this holiday season & look for unexpected charges. Visit <http://ftc.gov/freereports> for more info. #ChatDPD

Thanks for a great chat! Check out <http://consumer.ftc.gov> and <http://onguardonline.gov> for more tips. #ChatDPD

RT @MOhlhausenFTC: Wishing everyone a safe and secure holiday season! #ChatDPD