

# 10

## Must-Read Experian Articles on Fraud and Identity Theft

Staying safe online means knowing how criminals operate and how to protect yourself. On this page, you'll find 10 of Experian's top articles covering fraud, identity theft, and ways to keep your personal information secure. Each article highlights real-world risks and practical steps you can take to protect your credit and identity. As you read, pay close attention—what you learn here will give you the clues you need to solve the crossword puzzle on the back of this page.

- 01 The Latest Scams You Need to be Aware of in 2025**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/the-latest-scams-you-need-to-aware-of/>
- 02 What Can Identity Thieves Do With Your Personal Info?**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/what-can-identity-thieves-do-with-your-personal-information-and-how-can-you-protect-yourself/>
- 03 Here's What You Should Do After a Data Breach**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/data-breach-five-things-to-do-after-your-information-has-been-stolen/>
- 04 How to Keep Your Social Security Number Safe**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/how-to-keep-social-security-number-safe/>
- 05 Credit Score Basics: Everything You Need to Know**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/credit-education/score-basics/understanding-credit-scores/>
- 06 Hard Inquiry vs. Soft Inquiry: What's the Difference?**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/hard-inquiry-vs-soft-inquiry/>
- 07 How to Protect Personal Information Online**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/how-do-you-protect-your-personal-information-online/>
- 08 How to Create a Strong Password**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/how-to-create-a-secure-password/>
- 09 How to Place a Fraud Alert**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/how-to-place-a-fraud-alert/>
- 10 What is Cybersecurity?**  
<https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/what-is-cybersecurity/>



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# CROSSWORD

## Answer Key

**Directions** - Read the Experian articles on Fraud and Identity Theft on the back of this page. Use the information you learn to complete the crossword puzzle.

**Across**

- 4 - H O M E T I T L E F R A U D
- 5 - M I C R O C U T S H R E D D E R
- 8 - V P N
- 11 - R E F U N D P H I S H I N G
- 14 - M E D I C A L I D E N T I T Y T H E F T
- 15 - D A R K W E B S C A N
- 16 - F I C O
- 18 - H A R D I N Q U I R Y

**Down**

- 1 - Z E R O D A Y A T T A C K
- 2 - S O F T W A R E
- 3 - O L D
- 6 - O R E D
- 7 - E X T R A
- 9 - A Y M E
- 10 - S L F O C
- 12 - P H O N E N U M B E R
- 13 - O D P B O T S
- 17 - C I

## Fraud & Identity Theft

- 4** - Scheme where thieves transfer property ownership and take out mortgages against the victim's home
- 5** - Type of machine recommended for destroying documents that contain your SSN
- 8** - Tool recommended for securing your connection when using public Wi-Fi
- 11** - 2025 scam twist where stolen credit card charges list a fake merchant's phone or email, tricking victims into giving info when they dispute it
- 12** - Lenders may use this contact detail included in a fraud alert to verify your identity
- 14** - Crime where someone uses your health insurance to obtain medications or procedures in your name
- 15** - Free Experian tool mentioned as another way to check if your sensitive information is circulating online
- 16** - Most common credit scoring model ranging from 300 to 850
- 18** - Can temporarily lower your credit score and stays on your report for two years

- 1** - Cyberattack that takes advantage of a flaw before a fix or patch is available
- 2** - May result from a job background check or loan prequalification and does not affect your credit score
- 3** - Deleting these reduces points of entry hackers could target
- 6** - Scam where stolen usernames and passwords are reused to break into multiple accounts
- 7** - Protection that can stay on your credit report for seven years after identity theft
- 9** - Factor that makes up 35% of your FICO Score
- 10** - Feature on the Department of Homeland Security's myE-Verify website that helps stop employment fraud with your SSN
- 13** - Automated tools scammers use to trick people into handing over one-time passcodes sent by their bank
- 17** - Tool from Experian that lets you quickly lock and unlock access to your credit file

