



## **Portage Community Bank Customer Awareness Program**

### **Portage Community Bank's Commitment to Security**

Each year more and more people have their identity stolen, and the staff and management of Portage Community Bank (The Bank) want to give you the information you need to help protect yourself against ID theft.

While we cannot guarantee your ID will never be stolen, we will NEVER request personal information by email or text messaging, including account numbers, passwords, personal identification information, or any other confidential customer information.

Fraudulent emails may be designed to appear as though they have originated from Portage Community Bank. Do not respond to any email communications, which request any type of personal or confidential information and do not go to any links listed on that email. These communications are NOT from Portage Community Bank.

Never give out any information that the Bank already has to a caller, text, or email sender. If you contact us, we will verify the last four (4) digits of your SSN to confirm your identity, but we will never contact you and ask for your debit/credit card number or your full SSN. If we need to contact you, it will always be done in a manner that protects your personal, confidential information and we will clearly identify ourselves.

One of Portage Community Bank's top priorities is to safeguard your confidential information, and we work diligently to do so.

We always work with the local regulatory and law enforcement departments to be certain any type of illegal activity is stopped as soon as possible. We have multi-layer security to protect your confidential information and will continue to be vigilant in protecting it.

Immediately report any suspicious emails or websites to Portage Community Bank by forwarding the message to [webservice@pcbcbank.com](mailto:webservice@pcbcbank.com).

If you suspect identity theft or have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Portage Community Bank at (330) 296-8090.

## **Online Banking Security**

Portage Community Bank is committed to protecting your personal information. Our Online Banking uses several different methods to protect your information. All information within our Online Banking uses the SecureSocket Layer (SSL) protocol for transferring data. SSL is a cryptosystem that creates a secure environment for the information being transferred between your browser and Portage Community Bank. All information transferred through Online Banking has a 128-bit encryption, which is the highest level of encryption. In addition to the security features put in place by Portage Community Bank, here are some tips on keeping your information secure:

- Never give out any personal information, including user names, passwords, SSN, or date of birth
- Create difficult passwords which include letters, numbers, & symbols when possible
- Don't use personal information for your user names or passwords, like birth dates and SSN
- Avoid using public computers to access your Online Banking
- Don't give any of your personal information to any websites that do not use encryption or other secure methods to protect it

## **What is Identity Theft?**

Identity theft involves the unlawful acquisition and use of someone's identifying information, such as:

- Name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number
- Mother's Maiden Name
- Driver's License
- Bank or Credit Card Account Number

Thieves then use the information to repeatedly commit fraud in an attempt to duplicate your identity, which may include opening new accounts, purchasing automobiles, applying for loans, credit cards and social security benefits, renting apartments and establishing services with utility and telephone companies. It can have a negative effect on your credit and create a serious financial hassle for you.

## **How do I protect myself?**

- Report lost or stolen checks or credit cards immediately
- Never give out any personal information including birth date, SSN, or passwords  
Shred all documents containing personal information, like bank statements, unused checks, deposit slips, credit card statements, pay stubs, medical billings, and invoices

- Do not give any of your personal information to any websites that do not use encryption or other secure methods to protect it.

For more information about identity theft and other tips on how to protect yourself and your information, please visit the following websites:

Computer Security

[www.onguardonline.gov](http://www.onguardonline.gov)

Federal Trade Commission

[www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft)

United States Department of Justice

[www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud](http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud)

Equifax

PO Box 105069

Atlanta, GA 30349-5069

[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

To order a report: (800) 685-1111

To report fraud: (800) 525-6285

Experian

PO Box 2002

Allen, TX 75013-0949

[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

To order a report: (888) 397-3742

To report fraud: (888) 397-3742

TransUnion

PO Box 1000

Chester, PA 19022

[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

To order a report: (800) 916-8800

To report fraud: (800) 680-7289

## Debit Card Protection

Debit card usage has increased dramatically in recent years and fraudulent use of debit cards has increased. We at Portage Community Bank have some suggestions for you for the care and usage of debit cards:

- **NEVER** give your debit card information when requested by phone, email, or texting. Neither we at Portage Community Bank nor any other bank we know of will ever request information from you in this manner. Please contact us if you receive any such request.

- It is a good idea to pay by credit card if your card leaves your sight. An example might be when a waiter takes your card from your table in a restaurant or when ordering online. Debit cards are easier to process illegally vs. credit cards.

## **Regulation E: Electronic Fund Transfers**

This law is designed to protect **consumers** making electronic fund transfers. The term “electronic fund transfer” (EFT) generally refers to a transaction initiated through an electronic terminal, telephone, computer, or magnetic tape that instructs a financial institution either to credit or debit a consumer’s asset account. The law and regulation establish the basic rights, liabilities, and responsibilities of consumers who use electronic fund transfer services and of financial institutions that offer these services.

**Business/Commercial clients are not covered by Regulation E.** As a result, it is critical that business/commercial clients implement sound security practices within their place of business, as outlined in this Program, to reduce the risk of fraud and unauthorized transactions from occurring.

Good practices can keep business/commercial clients’ information secure.

Corporate Account Takeover is a form of identity theft in which criminals steal your valid online banking credentials. The attacks are usually stealthy and quiet. Malware introduced onto your systems may go undetected for weeks or months. Account-draining transfers using stolen credentials may happen at any time and may go unnoticed depending on the frequency of your account monitoring efforts.

The good news is, if you follow sound business practices, you can protect your company:

- Use layered system security measures: Create layers of firewalls, anti-malware software and encryption. One layer of security might not be enough. Install robust anti-malware programs on every workstation and laptop. Keep the programs updated.
- Manage the security of online banking with a single, dedicated computer used exclusively for online banking and cash management. This computer should not be connected to your business network, should not retrieve any email messages, and should not be used for any online purpose except banking.
- Educate your employees about cybercrimes. Make sure your employees understand that just one infected computer can lead to an account takeover. Make them very conscious of the risk, and teach them to ask the question, “Does this email or phone call make sense?” before they open attachments or provide information.
- Block access to unnecessary or high-risk websites. Prevent access to any website that features adult entertainment, online gaming, social networking, and personal email. Such sites could inject malware into your network.
- Establish separate user accounts for every employee accessing financial information and limit administrative rights. Many malware programs require administrative rights to

the workstation and network in order to steal credentials. If your user permissions for online banking include administrative rights, don't use those credentials for day-to-day processing.

- Use approval tools in cash management to create dual control on payments. Requiring two people to issue a payment – one to set up the transaction and a second to approve the transaction – doubles the chances of stopping a criminal from draining your account.
- Review or reconcile accounts online daily. The sooner you find suspicious transactions, the sooner the theft can be investigated.

### **Unsolicited Client Contact**

Portage Community Bank will never contact its clients on an unsolicited basis to request their security logon credential such as the combination of the client's username and password. If you receive a request of this type, do not respond to it. Please call us immediately at (330) 296-8090 or email us at [webservice@pcbcbank.com](mailto:webservice@pcbcbank.com) to report any activity of this nature.

Portage Community Bank will only contact its clients regarding online banking activity on an unsolicited basis for the following reasons:

- Suspected fraudulent activity on your account;
- Inactive/dormant account;
- To notify you of a change or disruption in service; or
- To confirm changes submitted to your online banking profile.

If you receive an unsolicited contact from Portage Community Bank for any reason not cited above, your identity will be confirmed through a series of security questions and you will always have the option of hanging up and calling Portage Community Bank to confirm the validity of our request. Remember, Portage Community Bank will NEVER ask for your logon security credentials.

### **Self-Assessment**

Online Banking Business/Commercial clients are strongly encouraged to perform an annual Self-Assessment focusing on their online banking practices and network security. A Self-Assessment will evaluate whether the client has implemented sound business practices to address the five key principles outlined in the "Securing Your Business" section within this document.

### **Securing Your Business**

Is your company keeping information secure?

Are you taking steps to protect sensitive information? Safeguarding sensitive data in your files and on your computers is just plain good business. After all, if that information falls into the wrong hands, it can lead to fraud or identity theft. A sound data security plan is built on five key principles:

- **Take stock.** Know the nature and scope of the sensitive information contained in your files and on your computers.

- **Scale down.** Keep only what you need for your business.
- **Lock it.** Protect the information in your care.
- **Pitch it.** Properly dispose of what you no longer need.
- **Plan ahead.** Create a plan to respond to security incidents.

The following information is provided by the Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection.

## **Take Stock**

Know the nature and scope of the sensitive information contained in your files and on your computers.

- Take inventory of all file storage and electronic equipment. Where does your company store sensitive data?
- Talk with your employees and outside service providers to determine who sends sensitive information to your business, and how it is sent.
- Consider all of the methods with which you collect sensitive information from customers, and what kind of information you collect.
- Review where you keep the information you collect, and who has access to it.

## **Scale Down**

Keep only what you need for your business.

- Use Social Security Numbers only for required and lawful purposes. Don't use SSNs as employee identifiers or customer locators.
- Keep customer credit card information only if you have a business need for it.
- Review the forms you use to gather data – like credit applications and fill-in-the-blank web screens for potential customers – and revise them to eliminate requests for information you don't need.
- Change the default settings on your software that reads customers' credit cards. Don't keep information you don't need.
- Truncate the account information on any electronically printed credit and debit card receipts that you give your customers. You may include no more than the last five digits of the card number, and you must delete the card's expiration date.
- Develop a written records retention policy, especially if you must keep information for business reasons or to comply with the law.

## **Lock It**

Protect the information that you keep.

- Put documents and other materials containing sensitive information in a locked room or file cabinet.
- Remind employees to put files away, log off their computers, and lock their file cabinets and office doors at the end of the day.
- Implement appropriate access controls for your building.
- Encrypt sensitive information if you must send it over public networks.
- Regularly run up-to-date anti-virus and anti-spyware programs on individual computers.
- Require employees to use strong passwords.
- Caution employees against transmitting personal information via email.

- Create security policies for laptops used both within your office and while traveling.
- Use a firewall to protect your computers and your network.
- Set “access controls” to allow only trusted employees with a legitimate business need to access the network.
- Monitor incoming Internet traffic for signs of security breaches.
- Check references and do background checks before hiring employees who will have access to sensitive data.
- Create procedures to ensure workers who leave your organization no longer have access to sensitive information.
- Educate employees about how to avoid phishing and phone pretexting scams.

## **Pitch It**

Properly dispose of what you no longer need.

- Create and implement information disposal practices.
- Dispose of paper records by shredding, burning, or pulverizing them.
- Defeat “dumpster divers” by encouraging your staff to separate the information that is safe to trash from sensitive data that needs to be discarded with care.
- Make shredders available throughout the workplace, including next to the photocopier.
- Use a “wipe” utility program when disposing of old computers and portable storage devices.
- Give business travelers and employees who work from home a list of procedures for disposing of sensitive documents, old computers, and portable devices.

## **Plan Ahead**

Create a plan for responding to security incidents.

- Create a plan to respond to security incidents, and designate a response team led by a senior staff person(s).
- Draft contingency plans for how your business will respond to different kinds of security incidents. Some threats may come out of left field; others – a lost laptop or a hack attack, to name just two – are unfortunate, but foreseeable.
- Investigate security incidents immediately.
- Create a list of who to notify – inside or outside of your organization – in the event of a security breach.
- Immediately disconnect a compromised computer from the Internet.

## **Portage Community Bank Contacts**

You are protected in a variety of ways when you use Internet Banking; however it is important to contact Portage Community Bank in the event that your company’s online access has been compromised. Also, report any unauthorized or unexpected transactions immediately.

Your account is protected against fraudulent transactions in a number of ways, so monitor your account balances and transactions frequently. If you want to report suspicious activity in your account(s), or if you have questions about the security of your account(s), you can call us at (330) 296-8090 or email us at [webservice@pcbbank.com](mailto:webservice@pcbbank.com).

The security of your company's money and identity is as important to us as it is to you. Let's work together to protect it.

## **Additional Resources**

The following links are provided solely as a convenience to our Business/Commercial Online Banking clients. Portage Community Bank neither endorses nor guarantees in any way the organizations, services, or advice associated with these links. Portage Community Bank is not responsible for the accuracy of the content found on these sites.

- Avoiding Online Scams:  
<http://onguardonline.gov/articles/0001-avoiding-online-scams>
- Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Attacks:  
<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST04-014.html>
- Computer Security:  
<http://onguardonline.gov/articles/0009-computer-security>
  
- Phishing:  
<http://onguardonline.gov/articles/0003-phishing>
- Phishing – Avoid the Bait:  
[http://onguardonline.gov/flash/phishing\\_loader.swf?fileToLoad=http://www.onguardonline.gov/flash/phishing.swf](http://onguardonline.gov/flash/phishing_loader.swf?fileToLoad=http://www.onguardonline.gov/flash/phishing.swf)
- Consumer Advisories:  
<http://www.ic3.gov/media/2010/WorkAtHome.pdf>
- Consumer Threat Alerts:  
<http://home.mcafee.com/consumer-threats-signup>
- OCC Consumer Advisories:  
<http://www.occ.gov/>
- US Cert:  
<http://www.us-cert.gov/>
- StaySafeOnline:  
<http://www.staysafeonline.org/stop-think-connect/tips-and-advice>