



# Level Up Your Gaming Safety

The ultimate guide to staying safe while gaming online. Learn how to protect yourself, spot threats, and keep gaming fun.

# Know Your Gaming Battlefield

Online gaming is awesome, but it comes with risks. Millions of players connect daily across platforms like Xbox, PlayStation, Steam, Roblox, and Fortnite. Understanding the landscape helps you stay one step ahead.

**What makes online gaming risky?** Real-time communication, unknown players, and virtual items with real-world value create opportunities for scammers and toxic players.

The good news? You can protect yourself with the right knowledge and settings. Let's dive in.

**3B**

**Global Gamers**

People playing worldwide

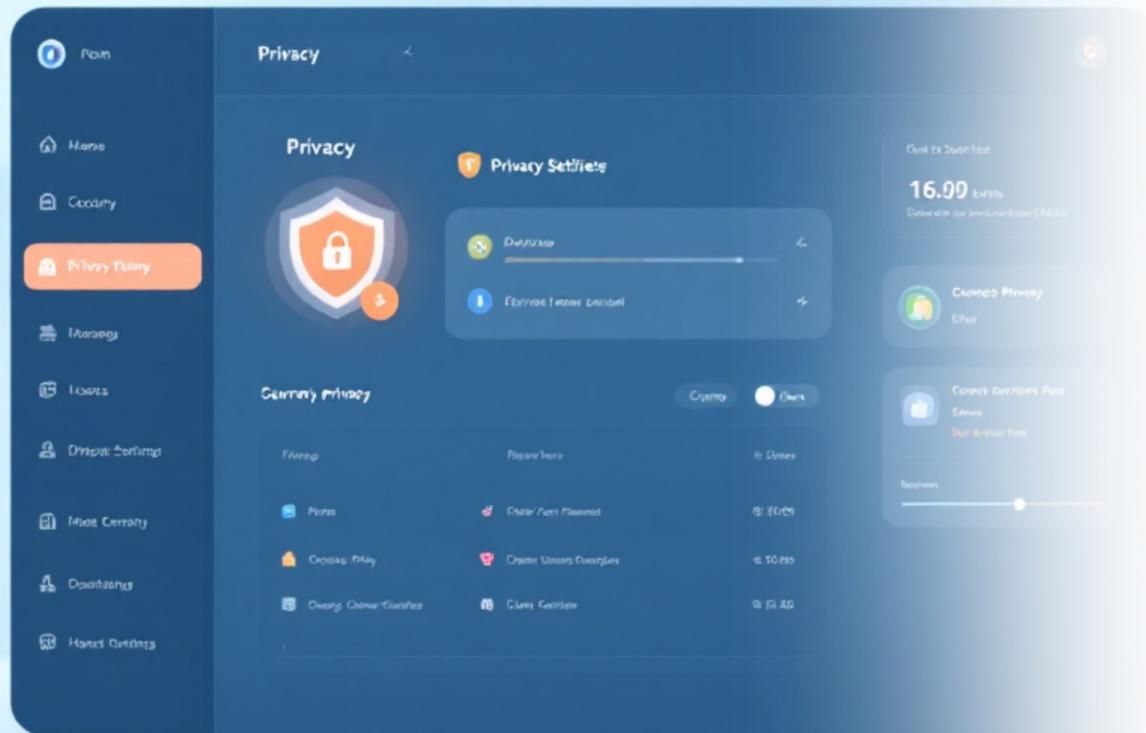
**67%**

**Voice Chat Use**

Players using voice comms

# Lock Down Your Privacy Settings

Your first line of defense is configuring privacy settings correctly. Don't skip this step—it's like choosing your character class before battle.



## Profile Privacy

Set your profile to private or friends-only. Hide your real name, location, and age. Use a unique gaming username that doesn't reveal personal info.

## Communication Controls

Restrict who can message you and send friend requests. Enable content filters for chat. Consider disabling voice chat with strangers.

## Account Security

Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on every platform. Use strong, unique passwords. Never share login credentials with anyone, even friends.

# Voice Chat: Stay Smart, Stay Safe



Voice chat makes gaming more fun, but it also opens the door to risks. Follow these rules to communicate safely while keeping the experience enjoyable.

- **Never share personal details like your real name, school, address, or phone number**
- **Mute or block toxic players immediately—don't engage with trolls**
- **Be careful about background noise that might reveal personal information**
- **Use push-to-talk settings when possible to control when your mic is active**

# In-Game Friendships: Real Friends vs. Strangers

## Green Flags: Safe Gaming Friends

- Respect your boundaries and privacy
- Keep conversations about the game
- Don't pressure you to share personal info
- Support positive gaming experiences

## Red Flags: Warning Signs

- Ask for personal information or photos
- Want to move conversations off-platform
- Offer "free" items or currency that seem too good to be true
- Make you uncomfortable or pressure you

**Remember:** Online friends can be real friends, but always keep smart boundaries. Never meet an online friend in person without a parent present, and never share your location or personal contact info.

# Scams, Hacks & How to Spot Them

Scammers target gamers because accounts and items have real value. Here's how to recognize and avoid common gaming scams before they get you.



## Free Items Scams

Promises of free V-Bucks, skins, or currency are almost always fake. They'll steal your login or infect your device with malware.



## Fake Admin Messages

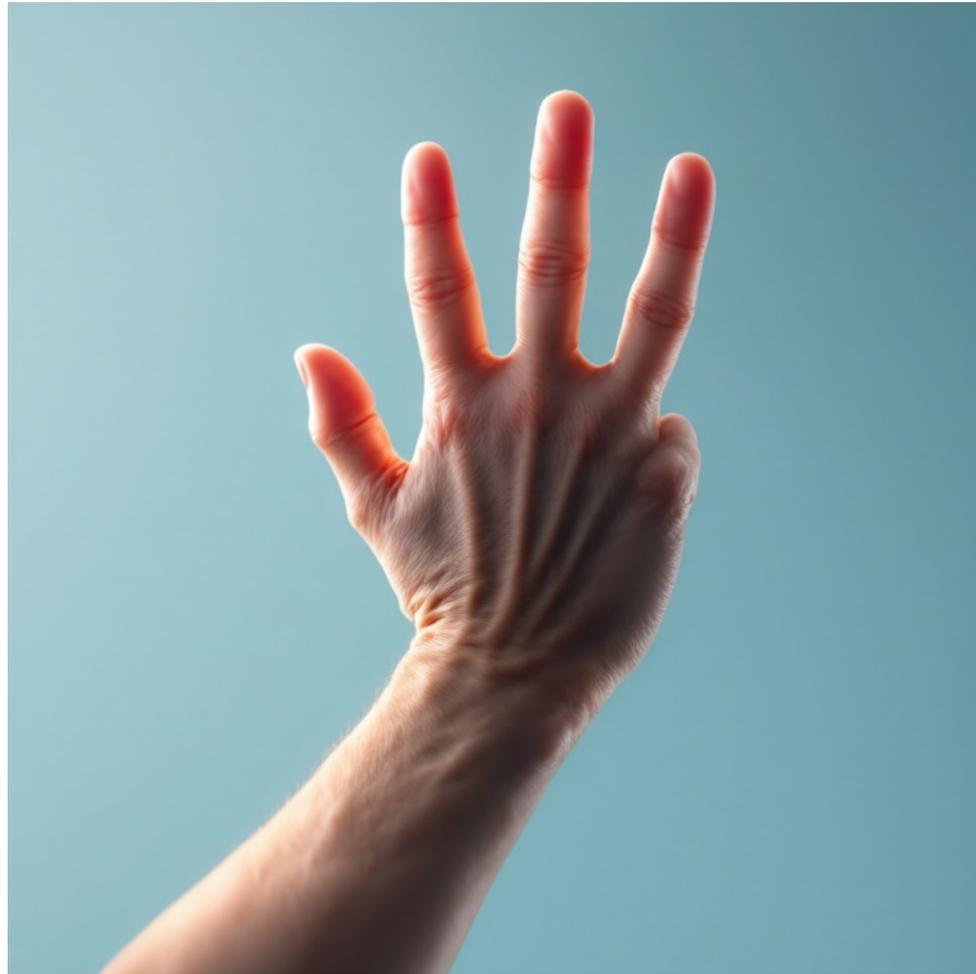
Scammers impersonate game admins claiming your account is banned or compromised. Real admins never ask for passwords.



## Phishing Links

Suspicious links in chat claiming to be "prize giveaways" or "exclusive content" lead to fake login pages that steal credentials.

# Dealing With Toxic Players



Toxic behavior ruins gaming for everyone. Trolls, griefers, and bullies thrive on reactions. Here's your playbook for handling them like a pro.

01

**Don't engage or argue back  
—it only encourages them**

02

**Use the mute or block feature  
immediately**

03

**Report toxic behavior  
through the platform's  
reporting system**

04

**Take screenshots of serious  
harassment as evidence**

05

**Talk to a trusted adult if things escalate or make you  
uncomfortable**

# Gaming Addiction: Know the Signs

Gaming is meant to be fun, but too much of anything can become unhealthy. Recognizing warning signs early helps you maintain balance and enjoy gaming responsibly.

## Time Management Issues

Gaming interferes with homework, sleep, or other responsibilities. You lose track of time regularly or feel anxious when you can't play.

## Mood Changes

You feel irritable, angry, or depressed when not gaming. Gaming becomes your only source of happiness or stress relief.

## Social Withdrawal

You avoid real-life friends and activities to game more. Online relationships replace in-person connections entirely.

 **Need help?** Talk to a parent, school counselor, or trusted adult if gaming feels out of control. Balance is key to healthy gaming.

# Streaming Safety 101

Streaming your gameplay on Twitch, YouTube, or other platforms is exciting, but it comes with unique safety considerations. Protect yourself while building your audience.

1

## Protect Your Identity

Never show your full name, school name, or any identifying information on stream. Use a streaming persona separate from your real identity.

2

## Control Your Environment

Be mindful of what's visible in your webcam background. Remove photos, mail, or anything showing personal details before going live.

3

## Moderate Your Chat

Set up chat filters and moderation bots. Have clear rules and trusted moderators. Block toxic viewers immediately.

4

## Get Parent Permission

Most platforms require parental consent for users under 18. Keep parents involved in your streaming activities and decisions.

# Cybersecurity Non-Profit



**Making cybersecurity knowledge accessible to everyone through education, community, and practical resources.**

Our programs serve everyone: Business & Non-Profit Security, Family Cybersecurity, Kids Safety, Senior Digital Safety, Women's Security, and Parents & Educators.

**Everything we offer is completely free.**

[Visit csnp.org](https://csnp.org)

[Explore Resources](#)