

# XtianNinja's Brief Guide to Internet Safety for Streamers\*

or

## How to Keep Your House From Being Burned Down by an Insane Person from the Internet

We all know that there are a whole lot of ways that you can get yourself in trouble online – and that danger only increases for streamers. Here are a few things to keep you safe online:

1. **Keep your operating system and virus/malware software up to date.** Bad guys can do all sorts of horrible stuff that *you will never know is happening until it's too late* if they can get malicious software on your computer.
  
2. **Turn Two-Factor Authentication on *everything* (Steam, Epic, Discord, Twitch, Facebook, Twitter, etc.)** Two-Factor Authentication essentially means that every time you log into a site it sends a secret code to your phone or alternate e-mail address. This is a super-important way to protect yourself – especially if you use the same (or similar) passwords for different sites (*which you shouldn't do either!*).
  
3. **How to keep yourself from getting “doxed” (located IRL) or “swatted” (as in having a police SWAT team raid your house for false reasons).**
  - a. Tell local law enforcement that you're a streamer.
  - b. If you want companies or followers send you stuff, consider getting a PO Box in a neighbouring town.
  - c. Don't share pictures of your home or location on stream.
    - i. When sharing stories, be aware of how people could use the information to find you. Ex: “I live in (near) this town...”, “I'm near the world's biggest paperclip...” (and talk to your guests / collabs about these measures too)
  - d. Don't post your trips and plans on social media. Share after you get back. You don't want someone you don't know tracking you down IRL.
  - e. Keep your microphone off when you're not streaming (like during breaks) just in case you accidentally share personal information without realizing.
    - i. It can help to have a check-list of things to do before, during, pausing, and after stream to make sure you don't forget.
  - f. Upgrade your PayPal to a Business Account (a personal account can show your information). Use PayPal's App Centre to create a secure Donation Button (PayPal.me is less secure.)
  - g. Check your WHOIS information to see what your personal website is *really* sharing: <https://whois.domaintools.com/>

- h. Punch your name into <https://www.spokeo.com/> and <https://www.whitepages.com> to see what kind of information is being shared about you online.
- i. Put your profile picture(s) into <http://www.TinEye.com> to see where else it is being used on the internet.

#### 4. Other Safety Tips:

- a. Don't use your real name on stream – especially not in your username.
- b. Cover your webcam because some hackers can enable it *without the light coming on* and spy on you. (Contact me if you want me to 3D print you a fancy one, but you can use tape and cardboard too).
- c. Create a new email address for all your streaming contacts (it's pretty easy to check multiple accounts from one location to make it easier).
- d. Don't use your real birthday on social media accounts.
- e. Delete all your old VODS just in case you said something before you started to be aware of the dangers.

#### 5. Hate-Raid Protection

- a. Enable the safety and auto-moderation features in a “ChatBot” (CloudBot, NightBot, etc.) to protect you from common problems.
- b. Use the lists on these websites to populate your Twitch “AutoMod Blocked Terms and Phrases” and/or in the “Word Protection” on your ChatBot. Unfortunately, you will have to go through this list word-by-word because it's pretty strict – *and* you may need to add words from other cultures. (Eg. British slang)
  - i. <http://www.bannedwordlist.com/lists/swearWords.txt>
  - ii. <https://www.frontgamemedia.com/a-list-of-723-bad-words-to-blacklist-and-how-to-use-facebooks-moderation-tool/>
- c. If you get hit with a Hate-Raid, use these commands (or, make a macro to do them all at once with your StreamDeck)
  - i. Enable Subs Only Chat: **/subscribers**
  - ii. Enable Emote Only Chat: **/emoteonly** (to prevent reactions)
  - iii. Take screenshots for reporting (your community can help)
  - iv. Clear the Chat: **/clear**
  - v. **Turn off Alerts** in your streaming software (OBS, etc.)

Happy (and Safe) Streaming,  
XtianNinja

\*Includes information from:

<https://us.norton.com/internetsecurity-kids-safety-safe-practices-for-live-streaming-your-gaming.html>  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/Twitch/comments/69ksxo/basic\\_safety\\_security\\_tips\\_for\\_streamers/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Twitch/comments/69ksxo/basic_safety_security_tips_for_streamers/)  
<https://twitter.com/TeaSpades/status/1428398172464889870>