# Activity: Take Preventive Action

**Directions:**

* 1. For each of the suggestions above, evaluate what you do now to deter thieves from stealing your personal information.
  2. To the left of each bullet, write your rating as “+” if the advice matches your actions most of the time, “-“ if you never carry out the action, or “+/-“ if you sometimes do the action but could be more careful.

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| --- | --- |
| **My Rating**  **+ +/- -** | **Preventive Action** |
|  | **Stay mum.** In your profiles, don’t list your real birth date, mailing address, or anything you use as a password or to answer a security question for your financial accounts. |
|  | **Become a control freak.** Use privacy settings to limit the personal information people outside your network can see. |
|  | **Pick a strong password.** Hackers pretending to be you can scam your friends.  Create a non-obvious password that includes a mix of numbers, symbols, and letters (both capitals and lowercase). |
|  | **Stay cautious.** Messages sent via social networking sites may be even less secure than typical email when it comes to viruses, malware, and fraudulent links to scam your information. |
|  | **Just say “ignore.”** If you can’t bring yourself to reject a stranger’s “friend” request, just ignore it. Scammers will quickly move on to someone else. |
|  | **Watch your apps.** Facebook and other social sites do not screen new apps for  security issues and viruses. Search an app’s name online before adding to see if there are any reported problems. |