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## **Hacked? Don't just run around in a panic, consciously uncouple your email accounts.**

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It's the worst feeling. You're opening your mail (or email) and get a note that your bank account has been hacked.

Mine came in the form of a bank employee clicking on a phishing email. That mistake compromised my son's bank account and my email address. Like so many people, I used that email for almost everything.

Instead of running around in panic, here's a little trick to help with the frustrating situation: consciously uncouple your email accounts.

### **THINK ABOUT WHO RECEIVES YOUR EMAILS**

Whether you like it or not your email is a public calling card. Set up different accounts for different purposes. Think of them as content buckets. Decide who receives what.

Create an email only used for shopping, another for your bank — I separated it from my credit cards — social media, your children and so forth.

The best way to do this is to have the one account and use plus aliasing, says Troy Hunt, a Microsoft regional director based in Australia. That means that if you have an address like fakeemailaddress@gmail.com you can use fakeemailaddress+1@gmail.com and fakeemailaddress+2@gmail.com and still get the emails to the same inbox.

I use gmail and outlook to parse things out but funnel all accounts into two separate inboxes to quickly track.

**TRACK AND VERIFY** The basics are still important. Use strong unique passwords via a password manager and enable two-factor authentication. Wirecutter, a New York Times company that reviews and recommends products, suggests LastPass for most people. If you suspect your email has been compromised, a good place to start is going to Have I Been Pwned and Pwned Passwords.

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