



Banking **ONLINE** safely

WITH the advances in modern technology online banking is becoming the norm for millions of people. The popularity of online banking has grown in leaps and bounds due mostly to convenience and also security. People feel more at ease doing their banking from the comfort of the home given the ability to check on the account anytime.

■ Growth of online banking

All of the major banks and financial institutions are now involved in online banking. You can transfer funds, pay bills, view bill totals for almost any account, and apply for loans with online banking. It is much more cost efficient for the banks when you do your banking online and most offer this service free.

The simple fact that you don't have

to stand in a long line and the ability to do your online banking 24 hours a day is another great incentive for customers. For these reasons and so many more online banking is beneficial to almost everyone.

■ Security

However, there are some things to take into consideration when you are using online banking. The first and most important thing you should confirm is that your bank is using a secure server to process your online banking needs.

You can confirm this very easily; just look at the web URL for the company when you log in. If the web URL begins with HTTPS: then you know you are doing your online banking on a secure server.

You should also make sure you

change your online banking password every 30 to 60 days and store the password in a secure location off your computer. You should never do your online banking on any public or shared computers because you don't know what programs are running on that computer or who is looking at your online banking information.

Online banking is the safest and easiest way to manage your money if you take the proper steps to protect yourself and your money.

■ Password

Your browser will sometimes give you an option to remember passwords for the next time you log in, always choose not to. Online banks however usually disable this on their log in pages thus requiring you to enter all of the log in information every time you log in.

