

ONLINE BANKING PRIVATE LABEL



EXCLUSIVE REPORT

ONLINE BANKING PRIVATE LABEL

Introduction

The differences between online banking and offline banking are numerous and important; if you are currently stuck in limbo between your current, limited offline bank and a new online bank, you should spend some time to carefully review your choices.

What's so great about opening an online banking account?

An online banking account will make it easy to do all your transactions and bill-paying at home-and in your own free time; whereas someone who doesn't have an online banking account will have to make a trip to the local bank and sort everything out there. You also can't put trips to the bank off either; when a bill has to be paid, it has to be done on time, unless you want to pay additional fees and risk losing status with your creditor.

However, there are advantages to using an offline banking account over an online account. One advantage is being able to talk to someone if you have a problem with your account. You can talk to someone who will guide you through the problem and will help you in any way possible; and can even tell you what went wrong.

When you are online, you can only send an email and it usually takes time for the bank to reply; if it is a severe problem, you can be waiting sometime for a reply from you banks customer service center. Another advantage is the exercise that you get from walking down to the bank. This may sound like a lame advantage, but with the threat of obesity hanging over our heads, we need to keep taking regular exercise. We are told that every time we watch the news.

It is time to heed that advice, even if your bank is less than a mile away. Take the walk and breathe in some fresh air.

These are just a few advantages and disadvantages you can factor in when you make the decision, but ultimately, the choice will be up to you.

The Beginning and Evolution of Online Banking



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

The online banking industry today has become quite massive: over 50% eligible Internet users have an online banking account and most don't even know how it all started.

Online banking was destined to happen as soon as Internet use became widespread. With the high amount of people who own computers, online banking is more popular than ever today. Powerful computer networks are used to automate millions of transactions a day and the only receipt the customer gets is an online statement that can also be delivered via mail.

Online banking has been a huge success since it was first introduced in the late 1990s and its popularity shows no signs of fading, with new customers signing up everyday. In the beginning of online banking boom, all people could do was see their accounts and transfer money between them. But now they can pay their bills and change the password for their online banking accounts with just a few simple clicks of the mouse.

Banks view online banking as a powerful value-added tool, which they can use to attract and retain new customers-for both their offline services and their Internet-only services. Online banking also eliminates the cost of paper handling, which scammers can use to rip you off if they get hold of the statement first.

Many customers who use online banking enjoy the convenience that comes with online banking and the ease with which they can pay their bills or check their statement. Online banking is always increasing in size, whether it is doing so by attracting new customers or by keeping insulating older accounts with more security everyday. All customers have to do is follow the security advice they are given; and the chances of their becoming a victim of online banking fraud is almost zero.

What Are The Advantages of Online Banking?

Millions of online banking customers are receiving incredible services for the first time by simply joining an online bank.

One major advantage that customers receive through online banking is the convenience of managing their finances online. Online banks never close for their customers; they are always open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. They are only a mouse-click away, meaning customers can just sign in and sort out their finances in a matter of minutes.

In addition to the convenience, customers also get the advantage of accessing their bank accounts anywhere in the world. This means that if you have a money problem when you are on vacation or out of the country, you can access your account, locate the problem, and rectify it.

The transaction speed is also an advantage; compared to ATM processing speeds, the online banking sites can execute a transaction much quicker. The efficiency is also a bonus because you can take an in-depth look at any of your



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

accounts that you have set-up with your bank and they will all be available on one secure site. All of your IRAs, your mortgage, and even your credit cards can all be accessed on one website. You can even view all of your statements to make sure your money is going where you think it is.

If you have been an online banking customer for a long time, then you probably have noticed that your online banking company is now putting much more sophisticated tools on to their website. Using tools such as account aggregation, stock quotes, rate alerts, and even portfolio management, you can manage all your assets much more effectively. To make things even better, these programs are compatible with offline money programs such as Microsoft Money, making it even more logical for you to join the online banking phenomenon.

What Are The Disadvantages of Online Banking?

Whenever transforms a traditionally brick-and-mortar service into an Internet service, there are always advantages and disadvantages to making the transition from your old service to the new one. This statement is true even for online banking: there are advantages and disadvantages. The disadvantages are there; and you should take a look at why some consumers are turning their backs on the online banking world in favor of brick-and-mortar banking before you make your own decision.

One disadvantage you will encounter immediately in your research is the potentially long start up time. In order to register for an online banking account, you will have to provide identification and maybe even sign a form at your local bank branch. In addition, if you and your partner wish to manage accounts together online, then one of you may have to sign a durable power of attorney before the bank will allow you to open an online banking account. This process can take time and is a huge disadvantage to anyone that doesn't have sufficient free time to make the transfer.

Another disadvantage is the learning curve: online banking sites are difficult to manage for the first time. You will almost certainly need to invest time into navigating the site or using a demo. The best thing you can do to expedite the process is read the tutorials that are readily available on most online banking sites. You can also click on the demo button that will show you what the pages will display when you sign in to your online banking account.

Some of the banks will have to upgrade their websites with new and additional features, which will appear in unfamiliar places and may require you to re-enter your account information. This can be quite an inconvenient for online banking customers.

The biggest disadvantage that potential customers can't overcome is being able to trust online banking. If you aren't Internet savvy or have had bad experiences with Internet money transactions, you may always wonder if your transaction went through. Or you might wonder if you pressed the transfer button once or twice. Additionally, you may wonder if the bank will recognize this error and



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

correct it. This is a tough problem to overcome; and if you have it, you should do your best to overcome it by carefully cataloguing your transactions and consistently checking your balances and transactions records.

The Benefits of Free Online Banking

Most banks will tempt you to join their massive ranks of paying customers by luring you in with the word "free." If you can find a bank that offers favorable policies and is also free to join, you absolutely should join. Online banking will save you with a tremendous amount of time and frustration.

Imagine not having to go to the bank every time you need to pay a bill; instead, you can simply log in to your online bank account and pay your bill their with ease. Online banking is secure and safe, so you will not have to worry about someone stealing your account information while you are paying your bills.

Banks are urging their customers to use the online banking system that is in place for them; and with no charge attached to this, the online banking phenomenon has really launched itself into the sky with its popularity and ease of use. The fact that you can stay in your pyjamas while checking your statement and paying your bills will always be a plus for customers who don't want to stop off at the local bank to sort out the bills.

Many people feel that security is an issue when using online banking, but this couldn't be any further from the truth. Banks have poured millions of dollars into security for their online banking systems. The only threat could come from fake emails, but the high amount of publicity that this security threat gets shows that people are aware of this threat and will know to just delete the email or to report it to their bank. The bank will also take measures to deal with it because if their bank is under threat from these people, then they can issue a warning to their customers to just ignore the emails.

An Overview of Online Banking in the United States

Americas love everything to be fast and easy; it is the way of life in America. We live in a fast paced world, where every single second counts. So when something comes by that seems to be a time saver, we love the idea and want to give it a try.

As with many other new ideas, Americans are making the move from the brick-and-mortar banks of the past to new online banks. We are finding it ever more convenient to bank online and at home.

Statistics show that many Americans are using online banking to save money and time. For instance, 22 million Americans used online banking as their main way to deal with their finances in 2004. So unless something extremely spectacular happens to either the Internet or all the online banking sites, then it seems likely that the 22 million figure will rise year after year; and many more Americans will sign up for an online banking service.



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

The statistics themselves highlight the growing trend of Americans who are using the online banking services. The only problem that Americans may want to know more about the service is the safety precautions that online banks take to secure sensitive customer information.

Many Americans each year are victims of identity fraud; and it seems like they can't get a break when it comes to this problem. So Americans are always concerned about their safety, especially when it comes to giving out sensitive information over the Internet.

There Internet is rife with spyware and viruses that exist for the sole purpose of extracting information from you. This is the main reason why so many Americans are staying away from the online banking scene and instead are using either telephone banking or going down to their local branch to keep a track of their accounts and transferring money.

An Overview of Online Banking in Canada

Online banking in Canada is on the rise, just like everywhere else in the world where the Internet is readily available. According to statistics, 57% of households in Canada that have Internet access did some form of online banking on the Internet in 2003. This shows that online banking in Canada has overtaken telephone banking. More and more Canadians are flocking to the Internet to keep tabs on their accounts, instead of using the phone.

This might because of how easy it is to bank over the computer compared to banking over the phone or walking down to the local bank. In addition to this, the only cost you incur banking online is the cost of your Internet connection; in contrast, if you phone in transactions to your bank, they might charge you for their service.

Another advantage of using online banking instead of going down to the local branch is that new companies that enter the banking industry can do so without investing millions of dollars in building branches and hiring staff. Of course, if a company were to do this, then they would have to highlight the fact that they don't have any branches in the country. But this could quite simply mean much lower rates and smaller fees in general for you.

Overall the statistics show that Canadians have taken very well to online banking. Fifty-seven percent is not a small marketshare at all; it shows that online banking is popular among households that have Internet access. But the households without any Internet access are missing out; but the bank branches aren't going to be knocked down anytime soon. So the people who don't have any Internet access can still be safe in the knowledge that they can still pop down to their local branch and make all the transactions that they need.

An Overview of Online Banking in the United Kingdom



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

In the UK, many banks and building societies are posturing to capture a large percentage of the online banking market share. And it seems that the UK consumers are benefiting from this competition most. Online banking in the UK is getting big; there is no doubt about it: 6.5 million consumers are online banking customers. And that figure is projected to rise every year--not because of bank closures--because of the ease that online banking offers. Everyone can say that it is easy and some people may still be dubious about that. But to anyone who is an online banking customer, they will know just how easy and simple it is.

The UK, like any other country, has banks on every street corner. And these banks try to lure new customers in with big bright signs: "apply now and get a 6.9% APR rate on your card!" When you are on the Internet, these banks take the same approach. On their websites, there are banners that banks use for advertising space because they understand that so many people are using online banking; and that they need to accentuate their competitive advantages to attract customers over the Internet.

Despite all of the advantages to online banking in the UK, not everything is perfect.

One in twenty consumers will fall victim to online fraud; and when they do, it will cost them big time. The UK's fraud cost last year was £58 million (\$101 million), which is quite scary for consumers looking to join an online bank. To be honest, it is safer to use a brick-and-mortar bank; however, in order to keep this safety net, you must sacrifice convenience and flexibility.

If you decide to open an online banking account but are apprehensive about the security issues, you should spend a considerable amount of time selecting a unique and hard-to-crack password; and in addition to this, you should also use other values for your optional information that is hard to determine.

Is Online Banking Just A Fad Or Is It Here To Stay?

Since 2002 there has been a sharp increase of the number of people who use online banking. The figure that was published in 2002 has since grown by 47%, which is a drastic increase and demonstrates just how popular online banking has become in recent years. This figure--put into perspective--shows that 53 million eligible Americans are now using online banking as their prime method of transferring money and paying bank bills.

This figure is roughly 44% of American Internet users; and one quarter of all adults now say that they use online banking to pay bills and check bank statements. In a typical day, 13 million Americans will sign on their online banking account and do the necessary transactions. This is a 58% increase compared to late 2002.

People consider a number of different reasons when they decide to sign up for online banking. Many customers who sign up for online banking have a fast broadband connection, which makes the experience better. Sixty-three percent of people who have broadband at home also said that they have tried online



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

banking.

This number is compared to 32% of those that have dial-up connections and have tried online banking. Additionally, 51% of people who have six or more years Internet experience have said that they have tried online banking, compared to 27% who have less than six years experience. Age also plays a part in the amount of people who have tried online banking: 60% between the ages of 28 and 39 have tried online banking. However, for people over 60, that number drops dramatically to only 25%.

People do trust online banking and are truly taking well to it. With step-by-step guides available for many sites, online banking is making it much easier and more convenient to manage your financial life.

Security - The Number One Priority for Online Banking Services

Whenever a bank issues a security threat to its customers, other banks seem to suffer a drop in Internet traffic and account usage, too. This is not because people don't trust the other banks; it's because customers are reminded of susceptible they are to fraud. It's our money after all; and if we don't want to use online banking, then that is our prerogative.

Banks pride themselves on providing top-notch security to their online banking customers. They also pride themselves on providing customers with the best information about their security. Many banks will provide the details on their website.

They might tell you how they have the latest in encryption software so that no hackers can steal passwords or any other information you send.

When you try to go to the login page, you will most likely get a pop up window stating that you are now being directed to a secure site. And what you input here will not be visible to anyone else. That statement is true: the bank does not and never will provide your login password or any other sensitive information to anyone else.

The security they provide should involve encryption software and multiple firewalls, but there is always more. They will also require your password, credit card information, and security questions to further prevent hackers from gaining access to your account.

The banks also run regular maintenance on the website pages, so that they can pick up on any small errors that they may have on their system. This regular maintenance is usually done with prior warning to the customer, but it will mostly be done when there is the lowest number of traffic to cause the least disruption possible to its online banking customers.

Security is paramount to banks that have online banking services and they will never jeopardise your trust to save a dollar.

How Does HSBC Online Banking Stack Up Against Other Online Banking



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

Services?

The HSBC website seems to be stat central. Rather than using flashy advertisements, they have found that straightforward comparative analysis is their biggest advantage as an online bank. This is perhaps why they use it to lure in potential new customers to their online banking website.

These statistics include such information as the amount of online banking business accounts they currently have (over 600,000). They also like to keep their visitors up to date with what is happening in the stock market with the latest share prices and currency rates. This website isn't just about a bank; it is the look of a very dedicated team at work.

HSBC's website is about looking after the customer and not trying to lure them in with false promises and useless information that is irrelevant to the online banking world. They take their webpage seriously by keeping customers up to date with HSBC news, as well as products and services that are available, while keeping the information in small bite-size pieces, so that everyone can read it and take it all on board.

But when you talk the talk, you have to walk the walk, too; and HSBC does that without a problem. The information available about their online banking options is superb with no loss of information and everything being stored in easy-to-understand sentences, rather than baffling, unnecessary jargon. They inform you of everything that you can do with your online banking account while, at the same time, keeping you up to date with changes to the offline HSBC operations.

Overall, HSBC is definitely worth a try; and we as consumers are very luckily to have such a great company that provides online banking worldwide. With online support should you need it and high security, HSBC will always make sure that you get the best possible online banking experience.

Does Bank of America Online Banking Live Up To Its Claims?

Bank of America is aiming for higher standards-or so the slogan says; but do they aim for higher standards when it comes to adding features to their online banking interface?

They seem to have a lot of services for their old customers to keep them happy, which is why they have been so successful in capturing such a large market-share; however, at the same time, they are trying to entice new consumers to join them by adding features to their online banking interface.

The online banking services that the Bank of America offers are almost the same as any other bank, but each bank has to highlight these options and let potential new customers know what they can get if they sign up for an online banking account. Ease of use and flexibility are the main keywords that banks will use to entice consumers to join, while also luring them in with new services that they offer to every customer and business.



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

Even though the package is fairly standard, the online banking services that Bank of America offers are very convenient. These services will save customers a trip to the local bank.

Bank of America likes to start small by saying you can open an online banking account and get access to your information 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Then they move on to entice you with more advanced features, such as online investing, online mortgage management, and even online college funds.

Bank of America also looks after small business accounts; for instance, they allow provide automotive dealer services where customers can access and manage inventory and floor plans online. And these services are just the tip of the iceberg; to get a wider feel of their online banking services, you should spend some time reading their website features because there are dozens for every customer.

How Does Nationwide Online Banking Stack Up Against Other Online UK Banks?

Nationwide, the UK's biggest building society, has been on the online banking scene for some years now; and is now one of the top online banking sites for high security. If you are a customer for the Nationwide online banking website, then you will know how favorably Nationwide stacks up against other online banking services.

The front page of Nationwide has their main advertisement placed on it along with a little traffic light symbol. Green means that the website is working normally and without any known problems. Yellow means that they have got planned maintenance underway, but you can still use the website. And red means that you cannot use the online banking website at the moment due to detected problems.

One of Nationwide's advantages over its competition is their strict sign in policy and questions. When you first sign up, you must enter a memorable date, a memorable place and a memorable name. When you are finished signing up, Nationwide will post you your secret six-digit pass number and customer number. Once you have all this information, you can sign in and check your accounts.

You must enter your customer number, one piece of your memorable information to enter. And then you will see that they require 3 digits of your pass number, which Nationwide will choose whether they want your 1st number along with your 3rd and 5th digits or a different combination. These are some of the tightest security measures you will find on any online banking site.

The main disadvantage that many customers have noticed is that it can be hard to access the other pieces of information. Cancelling a check or sorting out your direct debits is easy, but trying to get a loan or applying for a mortgage can be difficult. All the information is there, but it is hard to find by simply navigating the



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

Nationwide site.

There is also a convenient inbox where you can receive emails from Nationwide about planned maintenance--or where you can send an email to the customer service center when you have a problem.

Overall, if you value security over the ease of use of the website, then Nationwide is the online banking service for you.

How Secure Is SunTrust Online Banking?

The first thing you will see when you go the SunTrust online banking webpage is the form to register or sign in. Other banks have their new mortgage rate offers splashed all over their front pages with new ways to save money also taking up most of the space. But SunTrust gets straight to the point. They want you to sign in and then decide what to do yourself. They call this a new "time-saving" feature.

Many customers hope this new setup is more reliable than the service that they were offering nearly a year ago. Back in December 2004, a hacker actually managed to break into many customer accounts on the SunTrust website and send "phishing emails" to the customers that use the SunTrust online banking services. The emails looked authentic because they had come straight from the SunTrust website; needless to say, many people fell into this trap before anyone noticed the error. Not long after it was reported, many people added articles to their websites to inform SunTrust customers about the threat to help them avoid becoming a victim of fraud.

They have picked themselves up since then and have tightened their security significantly. The services they now offer on their online banking website allow you to contact their customer support center through an email. They also have a feature that will alert you each time you have a pending money transfer waiting; this is a smart feature that allows the customer to check the transfer thoroughly before accepting or declining it.

Overall the service that SunTrust offers is high quality. They allow you to keep multiple accounts on your profile; and they are always kept up to date. Hopefully the security problems are behind them and they can move on without worry of future break-ins.

Are EGG's Online Banking Services Safe?

According to Egg, their new Egg Money service that lets you gain more money when you spend less is the "new way to look after your money online." That sounds like a great service, but will your money be secure with Egg?

When you join Egg and login for the first time, you will notice how tight the security is for their online banking accounts. They will ask you for the information you used when you signed up for an online banking account. This looks great,



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

but how secure is it?

Most of the information can be received and used by almost any body. All they need is five minutes of your time. The login will require your first name and surname, your date of birth, and your zip code. Egg will then ask two security questions to make sure that it is you. They will ask for your mother's maiden name and your "special password," which will allow you to login in the event that you lose your real password.

That is all you need to login to your Egg online banking account, which is why some are apprehensive about joining Egg and other online banks with similar levels of security. All of the information-other than your password-is very easy to crack. And even passwords can be easy to crack, as people often use the same password for email accounts and other accounts. This means that if a hacker cracks any of these accounts at some point, they can access all of your accounts.

Egg obviously warns customers about this, but many people do not heed it, as they do not want to be bothered to remember another password.

Egg should step up their security quickly. They have a lot of customers and a lot of money stored in their online banking accounts-and if they cannot guarantee safety, this will spell trouble if a hacker or phisher concentrates on scamming Egg account owners.

For now, if you plan to use Egg or any online banking for that matter, you should create a new password for your account and take measures to obscure the rest of your data. This will ensure that your information remains safe and your money remains in your account.

Should I Consider First Citizen Online Banking?

Have you ever seen a bank's website and thought to yourself "this is a bank I want to try, but I'm just not convinced yet...I need some help." First Citizen's online banking team thought of those people and has taken the same approach that many online banks have taken to accommodate them. They added an online banking demo button that will give you a virtual tour. All you have to do is click the demo button and you will get an in depth tutorial of their online banking interface.

First Citizen is proud of its high security, and this is evident in the user options page. You can change your password whenever you want, which is you should do periodically-say every two weeks or so--just to make sure that you are truly safe from any hackers who might try to guess your password.

There is also a time out feature which allows the website to automatically sign you out after a period of no activity. When you sign up, you are given the option of having the First Citizen newsletter delivered to your email inbox, which you can always change in the user option page whether you want the newsletter or



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

not. Also, there is the option of choosing what page you want to see first when you sign in; and whether it is your statement or the money transfer page, you can set the option to see what you want to see--and not what the bank lets you see.

When you think about choosing an online bank, you will not have First Citizen up there at the top of your list. But if you are looking for a bank that looks after the customer with pride and never wants to see a customer leave, then First Citizen is your best choice. It's not about what rates they offer on loans and mortgages; if that's what you are after, then maybe you should look for a different online bank.

But if you are looking for a bank that has excellent customer service and built-in features that look after the customer and their needs, then First Citizen should be your first pick. You can still make transactions and check your statements, but you can also let them know what you think about the website; and let them know if you think it requires something new.

Should I Sign Up For Barclay's Online Banking Services?

Barclay's online banking has an easy-to-navigate website, which allows their online banking customers know to find the tools and statements they need, whether it is their first time online banking or whether they have been doing organizing their finances online for years.

When you go to the Barclay's website, you will notice just how easy it is to navigate the website. There is a section for small businesses, where you can take a demo tour of the online banking website, sign up for an account, or learn more about Barclay's in general. This is very easy and straight to the point: Barclay's doesn't beat around the bush or take you to other web pages before you can sign in; they want you to go straight to your desired destination without being forced to mull over ads and features.

There is one disadvantage, though, and that is the level of access to their special offers; however, if you want to view their special offers, they do have a page where you can view all of them, but it is poorly organized and crammed with information.

Other than this minor problem, Barclay's online banking seems to provide both superior service and superior organization.

They have kept their customers happy by taking a no-nonsense approach to navigation and access in general. If you want to learn more or register, then you can do it without wading through masses of text and useless information.

If you are a Barclay's customer and just want to jump into the online banking world, then this is the place to do it with minimal hassle; you simply open the web page, sign up, and you are ready to work--and best of all, you will receive all of the benefits outlined above simply for sticking with Barclay's.

The Bank of Montreal and Their Online Banking Services



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

The Bank of Montreal, like many other banks vying for supremacy in the online market, has made a number of major claims about the superiority of its services. But does the Bank of Montreal really have unbeatable services or is it like every other online bank?

Banks cannot honestly use the phrase "unbeatable service" to describe their online services because almost all online banking services offer fairly similar perks. Every bank that has online services comes up with new slogans to prove they offer the best in online banking services; but in reality, the only thing they are offering different is a new slogan. If they really wanted to make you happy, they'd let you access your account easier; however, this is one area in which The Bank of Montreal excels.

The Bank of Montreal offers all the "standard" services to their customers; and in addition to this they like to highlight the fact that you can check your account whenever you please.

The Bank of Montreal's online services will be new to those who have never had an online bank account before. They provide you with the option of downloading your bank account statements to financial software that is installed on to your computer so that you can check your statement offline if you are rushed for time. Also you can print out your details and look at them over a cup of coffee if someone else needs to use the computer. This is one great advantage of opening a Bank of Montreal online account: they have already thought about and responded to everything that could happen in your everyday life.

The only small drawback that may make potential new customers seek another online bank is the fact that their sign in process doesn't require much information. All they require for you to do is sign in with your bankcard number and your password. This kind of information is not something that you would normally hand out voluntarily.

Should I Start An Account With BB&T Online Banking Services?

All online banking companies--including prominent ones, such as BB&T--are marketing just how easy it is to use their online banking services. Some have appealed to flashy and clever slogans such as "point, click and pay."

BB&T likes to illustrate how easy it is for bill-payers to eliminate massive piles of paper bills and move to a cleaner, more organized electronic system.

As the world gets faster, we look for ways to save time so that we can keep up in today's modern world. Online banking is one of these ways to catch up and to save a lot of time every week. The ability to pay bills online and keep track of accounts saves everyone a lot of time and hassle.

Online banking is not just useful for everyday citizens. Businesses can also use online banking to their advantage by soliciting the services that are available and



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

numerous, such as checking business credit card transactions and seeing what business credit card was used to pay for a item, as well as what was purchased; and many more services that are unveiled when you open a online banking account.

There are also options available for both citizens and business clients that allow them to reorder paper checks and even order a new paper statement (even though you can access your statement online).

Signing up with BB&T online banking service is easy. You will need information about your bank account and proof that you are indeed who you claim to be. Once you sign up, you will receive email saying that you have opened an online banking account with BB&T online banking services; and that you need to confirm this action.

Once you have confirmed your account, you will be able to access a wide variety of online banking tools, allowing you to better organize your finances with the help of BB&T.

Why You Should Consider Natwest Online Banking

Natwest is a big player when it comes to the high street banks. But they are also a big player when it comes to the online banking world. So to keep their reputation at the top with the other high quality banks, they have built strong customer online banking protection to prevent them from becoming a victim of online banking fraud.

When you try to sign into your Natwest online banking account, you will have to input your customer number which is usually your date of birth and a unique id number that identifies you to the bank so they know that it is actually you logging in-and not someone who stole your information.

Natwest will be like every other bank and strongly recommend that you don't give your unique number to anyone; and to remember to keep the number either stored in a safe place until you memorize it-at which point, you should shred the paper the number is on and throw it away. This is common sense; and if everyone did it, online banking fraud would be impossibly hard to carrying out.

Natwest likes to keep its customers up to date on their latest deals and offers. Their webpage has all the information you need to stay fully informed on the existing offers as well as the already existing offers that they have on their credit cards and loans. As well as looking after personal accounts online, Natwest has also taken the example set by other banks and is offering online services to small businesses by keeping them informed on any offers that they may find useful.

Natwest has kept its reputation as one of the best banks and is making sure that they take that reputation onto the online banking market.

How To Apply for An Online Bank Account



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

The first thing you must do if you are looking to sign up for an online banking account is to search for the best deal for your specific needs-not the best "general package." Many banks have large discounts on loans and special offers on credit cards if you apply online. So if you are mainly signing up because you want to apply for a loan or a credit card, then you should spend some time comparing rates to find the most favorable deal for your needs.

If you have a few banks on your list to consider, then you should spend some time checking out the "demo" option for each of these online banks. These demos will take you through a tutorial of all website functions and will show you what every page will look like. In addition, they will give you an explanation of every page and what it does for the consumer; and, of course, what the consumer can do on that page.

When you apply for an online banking account, all banks will comment on how fast it is to apply for their online banking accounts, claiming that all they need is 5 minutes of your time to fill in a simple application form. Many banks will have an application form that you can download and print off to fill in later; and then post it off to them. This is especially handy for small businesses that might not have the time to fill in an online application form and would prefer to fill it in when they have the time.

Many online banks also have to have some form of high security. This is not always compatible with some people's computers, so there is a handy little test button that will allow their system to quickly check to see if your computer works successfully with their systems. If your computer isn't up to their standards, then they will list the problems that there may have been with your computer.

How to Report Security Threats on Your Online Banking Account

The Internet always seems to be under attack from viruses and spyware and other nasty little man-made creatures trying to find a computer to violate. And as online banking has developed, so have threats to online banking. But how can your bank account really be protected with so many threats always lurking on the Internet?

The main threats you will encounter as an online bank user are the "phishing" emails you will receive from scammers who claim to be from the bank. They will request sensitive information about your account. The easiest way to deal with these emails is to simply delete them from your inbox. But you can help the bank fight against these kinds of threats by reporting the email to the bank; few banks let their customers do this, but some will allow you to sign in and send the bank a message stating that you received a fraudulent email. You can then ask them to confirm if they sent the email or not and you will usually hear from them within a few days.

"Phishing" emails are a pain when participating in online banking, but even bigger threats are other there when online banking websites fail to maintain tight



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

security.

When a company fails to take small, but standard security measures, this can often lead to larger security problems on the bank's website. These bigger problems can lead to pervasive account theft and information theft if the bank fails to take preventative measures.

These can lead to customer's accounts being stolen and their information also being stolen. Anytime this happens, the bank is in big trouble. The bank will lose customers as well as the confidence they built up as an institution. The online banks are taking every precaution to stop this from happening by having planned maintenance so that their Internet team can run over the website with a fine-tooth comb and pick out any potential problems that haven't been spotted previously.

While online banking isn't quite as security as brick-and-mortar banking, it is far more convenient and often more cost-effective.

Using Your Online Bank to Pay Bills Online

If you told someone ten years ago that you would be able to pay your bills from the comfort of your own home in less than a decade, that person probably would have thought you were crazy. But times have changed, and the online banking scene is booming with new customers who have embraced changing technologies.

While many people use online banking to check their statements and keep up to date with their incoming and outgoing bills, others are use the new technology to the fullest: they pay their water bills, their telephone bills, and even their bank bills.

Online banking services are so easy to use that you may never have to go to the local bank ever again; instead, you can just lie in bed and pay the bills. This service is very easy to set-up; and to make things even better, many of the websites will even have a step-by-step guide to help you if you get stuck. If you do need expert help, then the bank has an email message system where you can get in contact with them to explain your problem and get assistance.

The best thing you can do is to setup a standing order or direct debit payment scheme with the online bank that administers your services. When the date rolls around that set to pay them, then the amount that you specify will be deducted and the company will be paid the amount that you requested. Most of the time, the bills will change and you might not be charged the same amount every month; if that does happen, you can change the amount that you want to pay during each billing point.

So take the plunge into the online banking world and see for yourself just how easy it is to pay your bills every month without every leaving your house.

What Are Phishing Emails And Can They Compromise The Security of My Online Banking Account?



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT

"Phishing" emails are one of the biggest threats to online banking customers. Hackers and scammers use "phishing" emails to extract information from bank customers. They will disguise themselves as a bank representative and email you asking for sensitive information. To put on the pressure, they will generally try to convince you that your account will be suspended if you do not email them immediately. But if you do, they will take this information and use it to extract money from your account.

When you read about "phishing" scams, you probably wonder how anyone can fall for such an obvious trap-and you probably can't even imagine it happening to you. Most people think this, but every day, millions of people receive "phishing" emails and there are a percentage of those who reply. Many people reply because of the threat that appears in the email "your account will be terminated," which is enough to make anyone act before they think.

These emails fool people because of the look of the email as well. It will look very professional and it will seem like it came from the bank, but it is actually a fake. Many people have noticed the warnings that are on their service's online banking website, stating that the bank will never ask for your personal information through an email or through the telephone. So remember that your bank will never contact you through either of these methods; and if they do for what ever reason, they will never ask you for your password or credit card details. If someone calls asking for your details, they are probably not who they say they are.

The most ironic thing about these emails is that they actually prey upon people's fears of being exposed to fraud. Some include comments stating that you will be a victim of fraud if you do not update your account.

Not every email from a company will be a attempt at "phishing"; some are legitimate. But if you get an email asking for sensitive information, then it is more than likely a fake, so do not answer it. Either delete it or report it to your bank.



VIP MEMBERS ONLY CONTENT