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Background of online shopping pdf

Back in the not-too-distant past, people in search of gifts were required to shower, dress and brave cold winds and irritated fellow shoppers to choose holiday gifts. Fervent deal seekers impatiently awaited store openings on Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) like idling engines awaiting ignition. Children flipped through toy store catalogs like doe-eyed automatons, leaving them conspicuously open to certain pages in the hope that the catalog would arrive in the late 1960s when computer scientists at the U.S. Department of Defense created ARPANET -- the predecessor of the Internet. We didn't know it at the time, but holiday shopping would never be the same again. We didn't have to go the store anymore! Instead, companies opened virtual stores online. Consumers could make their purchases day or night, respectably clothed or completely naked. Like most paradigm shifts, the advent of online shopping brought changes to the status quo. In stores, one need only keep vigilant guard of one's wallet to ensure its security; not so online. It's exponentially easier to assert one's will over temporary seasonal help when returning an item in stores. Again, this is not so online. In this vein, HowStuffWorks has laid out five simple tips for online shopping. We begin on the next page. When shopping online, plastic is the preferred method of payment. However, you must remember that your credit card information is online, it can be compromised if it falls into the wrong hands. There are some measures online shoppers can take to minimize their risk. First and foremost is ensuring that all online shopping is carried out only on secure sites. To be certain the page you're on is secure, look for a tiny padlock icon, usually found in the top right corner of your browser's URL bar. You can also tell if the site is secure by looking for an "s" in the URL address. While non secure sites and pages begin with http://, secure sites begin with http://, secure windows that are easier to read and that allow users to examine site information more carefully. For example, if you intend to check out your online purchases using Circuit City's secure Web page but the site name on the page certificate doesn't match up, steer clear -- and alert Circuit City of the problem. Never send your account numbers or any other personal information via e-mail link [source: FTC]. For this same reason, you should never access a Web site to shop through an e-mail link [source: FTC]. For this same reason, you should never access a Web site to shop through an e-mail link [source: FTC]. next page. Shopping online is easiest with plastic, but some plastic is better than others. It's advisable only to use credit cards, for online shopping. damage to your finances than with your credit card number. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers are protected in the event of identity theft or fraud -- if they use a credit card number. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers are protected in the event of identity theft or fraud -- if they use a credit card number. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers are protected in the event of identity theft or fraud -- if they use a credit card number. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers are protected in the event of identity theft or fraud -- if they use a credit card number. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers are protected in the event of identity theft or fraud -- if they use a credit card number. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers are protected in the event of identity theft or fraud -- if they use a credit card number. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers are protected in the event of identity theft or fraud -- if they use a credit card number. 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Even better, most credit card companies offer more protection, sometimes limiting consumer liability for fraud to zero. Using a debit card purchase within two days your liability is limited to \$50; after that it raises to \$500 [source: Bankrate]. Most credit card companies now offer single-use credit card numbers for online shopping. These expire after one purchase and only your credit card company knows which account it's linked to. Using only one credit card for online shopping is another great way to head off potential online shopping headaches [source: Consumer Reports]. If you have one credit card number sent via cyberspace, the potential for fraud is limited to that one account. Should a hacker come by your account information, you'll have only that credit card company to contend with. Online shopping could eventually mean the death of the physical retail store, but even if that happens, one thing will be constant: the warehouse. There will always be a need to store vast amounts of items and to employ people to stock these warehouses. Until robots take their jobs, warehouse employees will require salaries for the work they perform. Paying a person for retrieving, packaging and shipping an item that you've purchased online is already built into a retailer's costs. But if you return the item, it still has to be repackaged and replaced, although the company hasn't made any money from the return. As a result, online retailers have begun to charge restocking fees on returned items. It's a reasonable requirement, but some restocking fees on returned items. It's a reasonable requirement, but some restocking fees on returned items. It's a reasonable requirement, but some restocking fees on returned items. It's a reasonable requirement, but some restocking fees on returned items. It's a reasonable requirement, but some restocking fees on returned items. It's a reasonable requirement, but some restocking fees on returned items. It's a reasonable requirement, but some restocking fees on returned items. It's a reasonable requirement, but some restocking fees on returned items. percent or more, a fee of 15 percent of the price you paid for the returned item has become customary for intensively packaged products, like electronics. Before proceeding to checkout, familiarize yourself with the retailer's return policies, which should be explicitly stated somewhere on its Web site. Simply packaged items like books and unopened DVDs shouldn't cost you any money to return it -- you've damaged the product's UPC code or serial number, however, don't bother trying to return it -- you've pretty much taken the item permanently out of circulation. You can try to recoup some of what you paid by listing the item on Craigslist or eBay. Online shopping presents consumers with a wonderful new advantage -- the ease of bargain hunting. Prior to shopping presents consumers with a wonderful new advantage and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs are stored to store the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs are stored to store the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs are stored to store the lowest price for an item meant perusing catalogs are stored to store the lowest perusing catalogs are stored to stored t Not so much anymore. Check out sites like CyberMonday.com (Cyber Monday is the online retailers' version of Black Friday) to get hooked up with online bargains. Other sites, like NexTag.com, let you comparison shop. There are also entire blogs -- MightyGoods.com and FindGift.com are great places to get your online shopping chops -- dedicated to aggregating lists of gift ideas. Often, however, a simple Google's new Product Search of the item you want will yield even better deals. If you want a more focused search, head over to Google's new Product Search page (formerly known as Froogle). Search discount sites like Overstock.com for the item you want before buying it elsewhere. These retailers purchase excess items that manufacturers couldn't unload on other retailers at a discount and generally pass the savings onto customers. Don't be afraid of purchasing refurbished browsing has even further paved the way for finding deals online. When checking out, don't pass by the online coupon code bar. Open another tab or window and do a quick search for coupons for the retailer available on other sites, like FatWallet.com and CurrentCodes.com. You may come up with a coupon you didn't know existed just by taking a few extra seconds for a quick search. Many stores will happily provide you with their own promotional codes if you sign up for their email newsletters. Enter the code before you check out to reap the savings. Keep in mind that this is only a tiny sample of bargain-hunting sites on the Web. You may have your favorites, but no one would blame you for keeping your shopping secrets to yourself. If there's one big drawback to online shopping, it's the agony of waiting for your order to be shipped. The earlier you make your purchases, the greater chance they'll arrive on time. Under federal law, retailers must ship items within the dates specified in the transaction. To cut down on shipping fees, try to order many items at once from a single retailer. Your purchases should be lumped together into one large package with one shipping fee attached. By registering with an online retail site, the cookies uploaded to your computer will retain any items in your online shopping cart until you either delete or purchase them, allowing you to ship everything at once -- and at one price. Many online retailers offer free shipping on purchases over a certain dollar amount, and online coupon sites regularly offer free shipping on purchases over a certain dollar amount, and online coupon sites regularly offer free shipping. It's almost always the slowest, but if you order early, you've got time on your side. Give yourself a little more time if you're ordering from a third-party vendor through a big online retailer. The retail site's delivery date is an estimate, one the vendor doesn't always meet. To learn more about the ins and outs of online shopping, take a look at the links on the next page. Anderson, Tania. 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Sephora.com. now buy just about anything on your computer, smartphone or tablet from the comfort of your own home. Many online retailers allow you to store your payment information so you don't even have to pull out your credit card anymore. In just one click, you can have your purchases delivered straight to your door. Gone are the days when you'd have to run up to the shops every time you needed something. In fact, stores all over the world are closing their doors while online retailers are flourishing and expanding. According to the Centre for Retail Research, online shopping is the fastest growing form of retail, and that's probably not going to change anytime soon. Traditional bricks and mortar stores are disappearing and being replaced by shopping experiences like pop-up shops and events that allow customers to test products in new and exciting ways. Get deals, tips and insider secrets on the hottest fashion and beauty trends. Stay ahead of the curve on what's in style and where to find the best bargains. DiscoveryUncover the best brands you've never heard of and explore a wide range of products. You could be one of the first to discover the next big thing. Electronics we've done the work to help you find the cheapest and easiest ways to buy computers, phones, games, cameras and more. While everyone has their own reasons for shopping online, what it comes down to for most people is convenience and variety. You can simply find more products in less time when you shop online. Not to mention the fact that the Internet is a treasure trove of deals, discounts, sales and coupons, which means you can often find your favourite products at a lower cost. If you want to browse a wide range of products and services, look for the best deals and avoid the crowd, online shopping is the way to go. What can you buy online? You can now get just about anything delivered from online retailers, from accent tables and alarm clocks to yoga mats and zebra print shoes. You name it, you can probably get it online, but the most purchased product online might surprise you. According to Business Insider Australia, it's books! Books were one of the first items available online include the following: Electronics. Where better to buy electronics than the Internet? Online retailers usually offer the latest gadgets as soon as they are available. Why line up to get the next phone or wearable the day it's released when you can save precious time and how-to guides online to help you get the most from your tech purchases. Fashion and beauty. There's no shortage of fashion and beauty retailers online. While you might be worried about the fit and quality of clothing purchased online, reading reviews can be a handy tool to tell you everything you need to know about fit and sizing. The explosion in popularity of beauty tutorials means you can also get the best tips and watch professionals try out products before you buy. If you aren't happy with your new clothing, makeup or accessories, many stores offer flexible return and exchange policies. Homewares Just about anything you need for your home can be found online. You can get inspiration for new decorations, learn home improvement tips, browse deals on new furniture and homewares and even try out new mattresses. Sports and fitness. Looking to get healthier? Peruse sporting goods, fitness equipment and meal delivery services. Gifts. When the next holiday, birthday or anniversary rolls around, you can order gifts such as chocolates, flowers, jewellery and toys online. Keep in mind, most online retailers offer massive savings leading up to major holidays. Whether you want food delivered the same day, flowers sent to a loved one for a special occasion or the latest products straight to your door, you can find it online. If you're interested in making your next purchase online, start browsing today,

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