



For immediate release:
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ADVISORY: SDAT Real Property Search Tool Temporarily Unavailable - Only Use Trusted Maryland.gov Websites

On April 14, 2026, the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) detected suspicious activity on servers running the State Department of Assessments and Taxation's (SDAT's) Real Property Search website application. In response, DoIT quickly took the website offline to contain potential threats and conduct an investigation of the suspicious activity. The page will remain offline until the system is cleared for public use.

Analysis from DoIT's Office of Security Management suggests that all compromised systems contained **only public information** already accessible through the Real Property Search web application. DoIT does not anticipate a broader cybersecurity risk to the state at this time. Internal investigations are ongoing.

SDAT urges Maryland residents and businesses to avoid third-party websites or unofficial links that claim to provide SDAT property records, as these may not be secure.

In the interim, while the Real Property Search application is down, anyone who needs this information can contact their local [Real Property Assessment County Office](#). SDAT's contact center and local county offices are prepared to support customers while the website is offline.

DoIT is also advising all Marylanders to practice cybersecurity best practices.

1. Update Software on All Devices

It is critically important to regularly update software to ensure that your devices are equipped with the latest security features and patches. This helps protect your devices from potential security threats and vulnerabilities.

2. Recognize Phishing and Suspicious Websites

Phishing attempts can include deceptive emails, texts, or websites designed to trick users into revealing sensitive information such as passwords, financial details, or personal data. They often mimic legitimate organizations, like banks or government agencies. Phishing emails, texts, or websites may ask for personal information or prompt you to click on suspicious links. Be cautious. Do not input personal data or click suspicious links.

3. Install and Maintain Endpoint Protection

Protect your personal devices by installing a reputable endpoint protection solution and keeping it up to date. These tools help detect, block, and remove malicious software, including viruses, ransomware, and spyware, before they can cause harm. Look for solutions from well-known security vendors and ensure automatic updates and real-time scanning are enabled. Regularly running scans on your devices adds an additional layer of defense against evolving cyber threats.

4. Update Passwords

Use unique and complex passwords for all personal and work accounts to enhance online security. Password managers make it much easier to manage long, complex passwords for each of your accounts

5. Enable Multi-Factor Authentication

Multi-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security by requiring multiple forms of verification to access an account. Enabling multi-factor authentication can greatly reduce the risk of unauthorized access to accounts.

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About SDAT

The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) delivers fair and transparent property assessments, business registration, and property tax relief resources while fostering housing affordability, generational wealth, and business growth across Maryland.

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