

Your Digital Afterlife

A Guide to Managing Your Online Legacy

Empower yourself to take control of your digital footprint, ensuring your assets and memories are preserved according to your wishes.



We live a woven existence

Our digital lives are no longer separate from our real lives. They are interwoven, creating a complex 'tapestry' of who we are in the modern world.

Digital Legacy: The sum total of your online presence. It is the digital 'you' that remains after you are gone.



The cost of chaos vs. the gift of clarity

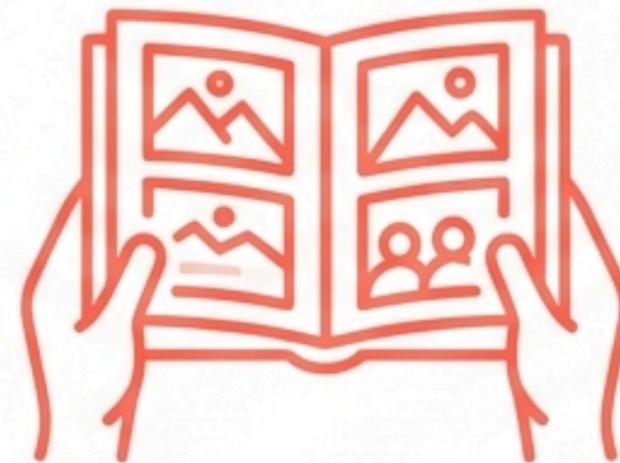
Why planning matters.

The Risk: Chaos



- **Practicality:** Crucial information, financial records, and documents may be lost forever.
- **Protection:** Unmanaged accounts leave you vulnerable to identity theft and legal limbo.

The Reward: Clarity



- **Emotional Value:** Your online presence reflects your personality. Preserving it allows your story to continue.
- **Peace of Mind:** Provides comfort and a clear path for the community you leave behind.

Defining the scope of your digital estate

Digital assets encompass a wide range of online possessions. It is more than just Facebook.



Social Media

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter (platforms where you connect and build presence).



Email Accounts

Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo (central hubs for communication and access).



Financials

Online banking, investment accounts, PayPal, and cryptocurrency wallets.



Cloud Storage

Google Drive, Dropbox, iCloud (photos, videos, documents).



Intellectual Property

Ebooks, digital music libraries, domain names, and online businesses.

Phase One: The Great Digital Audit

Your foundational step towards digital estate clarity.

01

Make a List

Create a comprehensive inventory of all online accounts. You must include:

- ✓ Usernames
- ✓ Passwords
- ✓ Security Questions
- ✓ Associated Email Addresses

Organise Files

Sort digital photos, videos, and documents into clear folders. Create a system that makes it easy for others to navigate your file structure (e.g., 'Financials', 'Family Photos', 'Legal Docs').



Phase Two: Curating your social legacy

You have three main options for how your social platforms are handled.

Option A: Memorialisation

Many platforms allow accounts to be 'frozen' to preserve content, allowing friends and family to share memories while locking the profile from changes.

Option B: Deletion

You can specify that your presence be removed entirely from the platform. This is a permanent erasure of the data.

Option C: Leave as Is

Accounts remain active but may become inaccessible or inactive over time. This is often the default if no choice is made.

Crucial Consideration: Review your photos and posts now. Are there any you would want highlighted? Any you would want removed before you go?

Phase Two: Managing the private archives



Email Strategy

Email is often the 'key' to other accounts (password resets go here). Decide if you want it archived for specific people or deleted to protect sensitive info.



Digital Files & Cloud

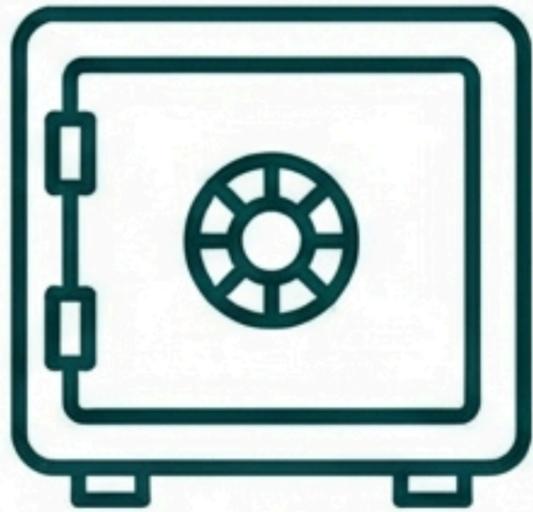
Determine the fate of your photos and videos.

✓ **Share:** Grant access to loved ones.

✓ **Archive:** Keep for safekeeping in cold storage.

✓ **Delete:** Remove permanently for privacy.

Phase Two: Securing financial and creative value



The Financials

Ensure loved ones can access portals and payment platforms.

Action: Designate beneficiaries for online banking, investments, and digital currencies.

Note: These designations often override instructions in a standard will.



The Creative Work

What happens to your blogs, websites, or online businesses?

Action: Assign a manager or provide clear instructions on whether these should be preserved, updated, or taken down.

Phase Three: The keys to the kingdom

The Password Manager

Use a password manager to store login information securely. This simplifies access for your designated loved one while protecting you now. It creates a 'Master Key' scenario.



Security Best Practices

- Use strong, unique passwords.
- Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA).
- Adjust privacy settings on social platforms to limit public visibility.

The Human Element: Appointing a Digital Executor

Definition: A trusted person appointed to manage your digital affairs according to your wishes.

The Role:

They are responsible for executing the plan—memorialising accounts, transferring files, or closing profiles.

The Requirement:

This person requires technical competence and your absolute trust. They are distinct from the executor of your physical will, though they can be the same person.



Legalising your digital intent

Update Beneficiaries

Ensure financial institutions have up-to-date beneficiary info. This is the fastest way to transfer assets and often bypasses probate.

Seek Advice

Consult with an estate planning lawyer to ensure your digital assets are handled legally. Laws regarding digital assets vary by province and territory.

Digital Legacy Services

Explore professional services that offer guidance, secure storage, and account management specifically designed for the afterlife.

The vital conversation

Core Message: Protect your digital legacy with clear, compassionate communication.

Action: Don't just document; discuss. Ensure your loved ones understand your wishes and feel comfortable navigating these sensitive topics.

Ask Yourself: Does my Digital Executor know they have the job? Do they know where to find the "Master List"?



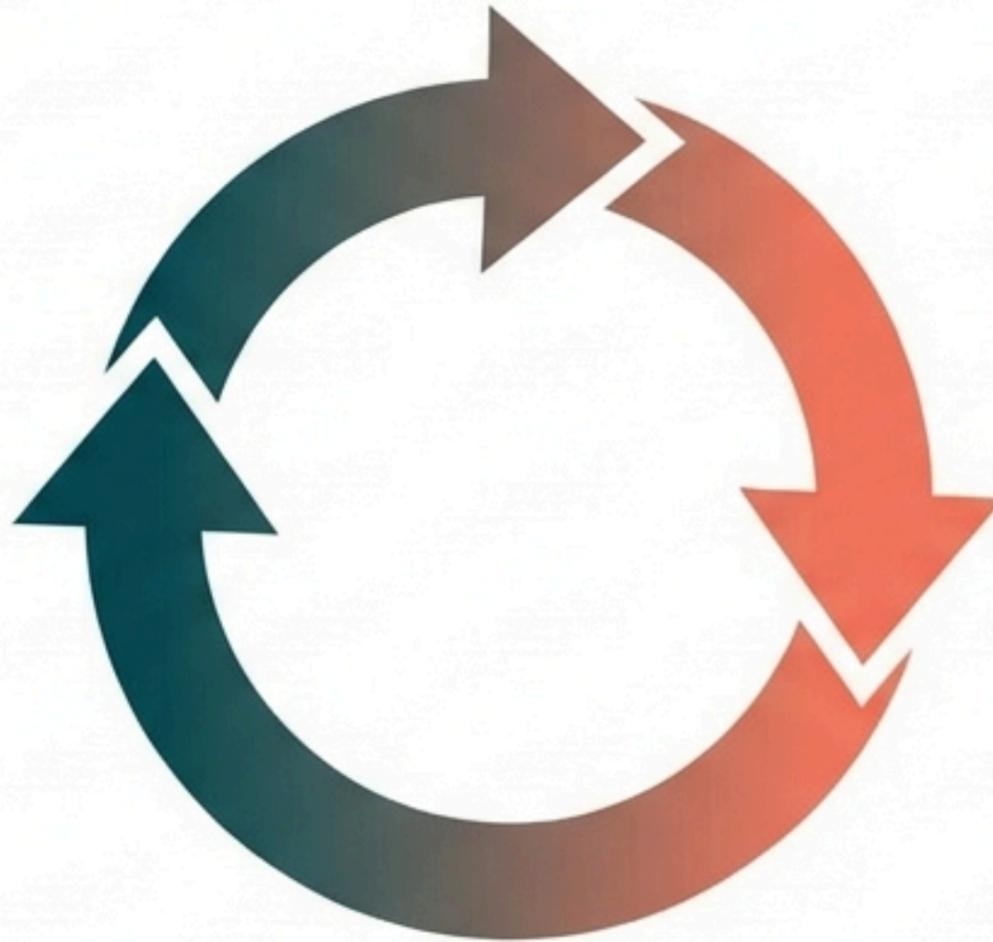
Keeping the plan alive

Update Inventory

Review your list whenever you open a new account or change a password.

Review Beneficiaries

Life changes. Make sure your designated heirs for online banking are still the people you intend.



Check Contacts

Ensure email addresses and phone numbers for your recovery contacts are current.

A final act of digital kindness

Planning for your digital afterlife is a present-day necessity. It respects your digital self and provides a clear, burden-free path for your loved ones.

The Result: By taking proactive steps, you ensure your digital footprint reflects your values and intentions forever.

Start your inventory today.

Your Digital Afterlife

A Guide to Managing Your Online Legacy



MAPLE RIDGE
— FUNERAL CHAPEL —

604-463-8121

