PRIVATE CLIENT GUIDE

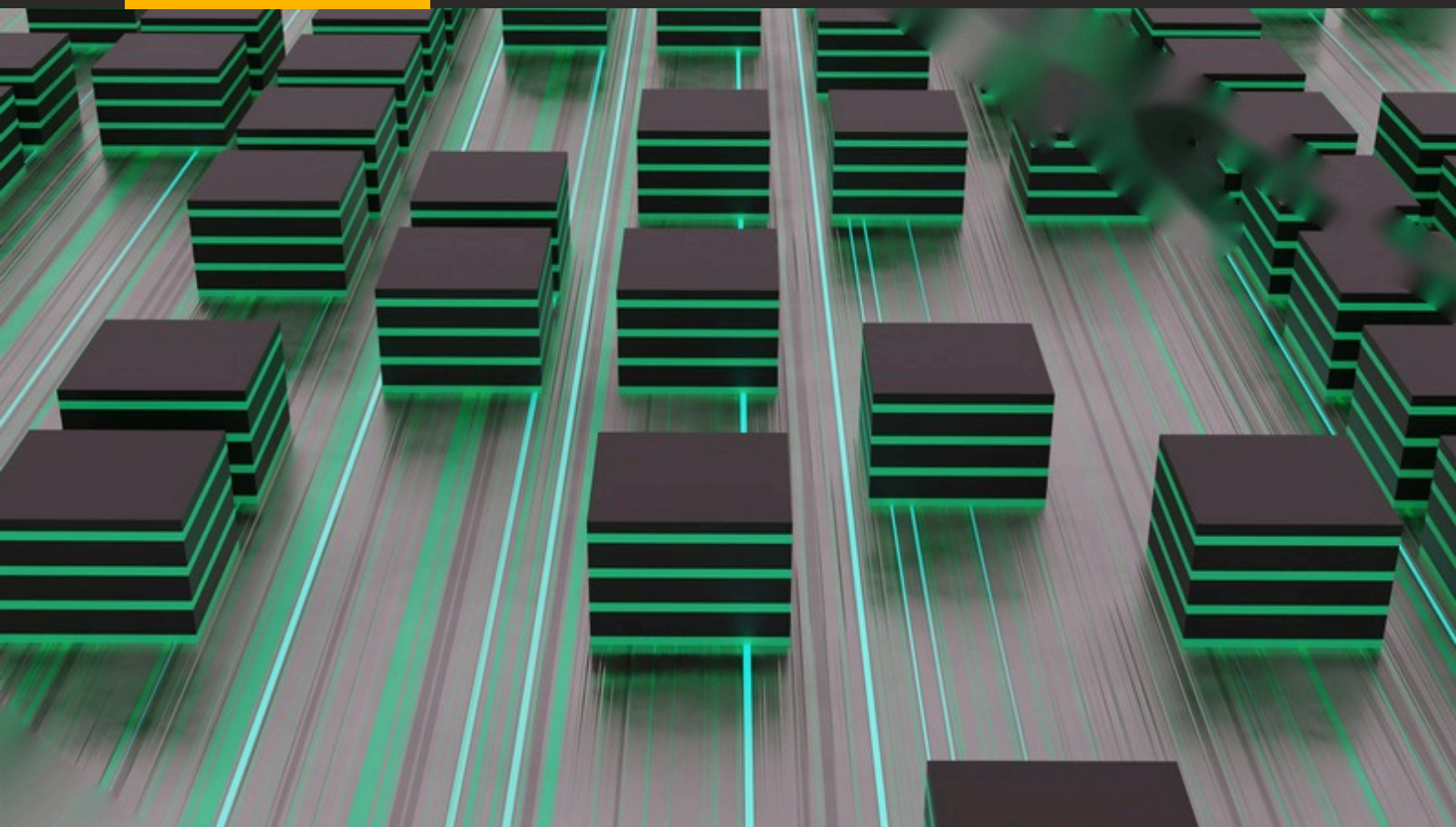
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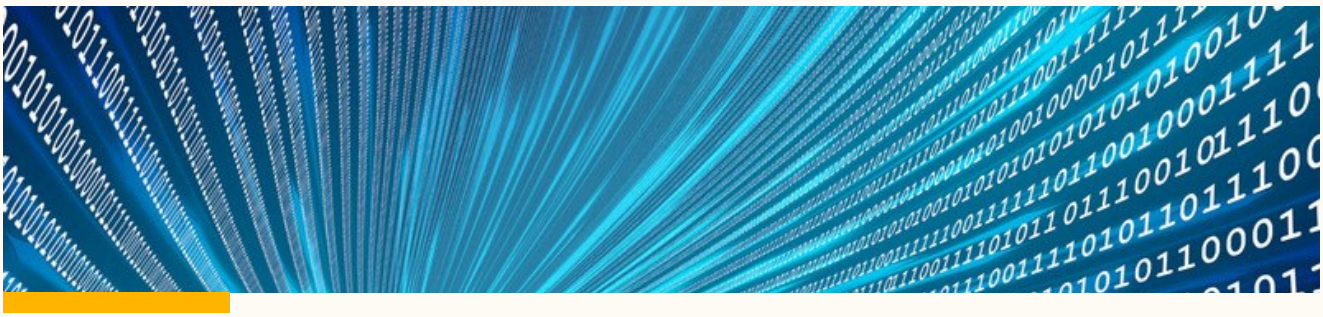
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DIGITAL ASSETS AND MODERN ESTATES

Dealing with online life, crypto and digital records

Alongside property and finances, most people now leave behind a substantial digital footprint. This may include information, financial value and important online accounts that need to be identified and dealt with.





Why digital assets matter

Alongside property and finances, most people now leave behind a substantial digital footprint. This may include information, financial value and important online accounts that need to be identified and dealt with.

Digital assets are often overlooked in estate planning, which can make estate administration more difficult than it needs to be.

What are digital assets?

Digital assets can include:

- Email and online accounts
- Cloud-stored documents, photographs and data
- Social media profiles
- Online subscriptions and payment services
- Digital business interests
- Cryptoassets and digital currencies

Some have emotional value, some financial value, and some both.

Access and authority

Unlike physical assets, access to digital assets is often restricted by:

- Passwords
- Two-factor authentication
- Provider terms and conditions

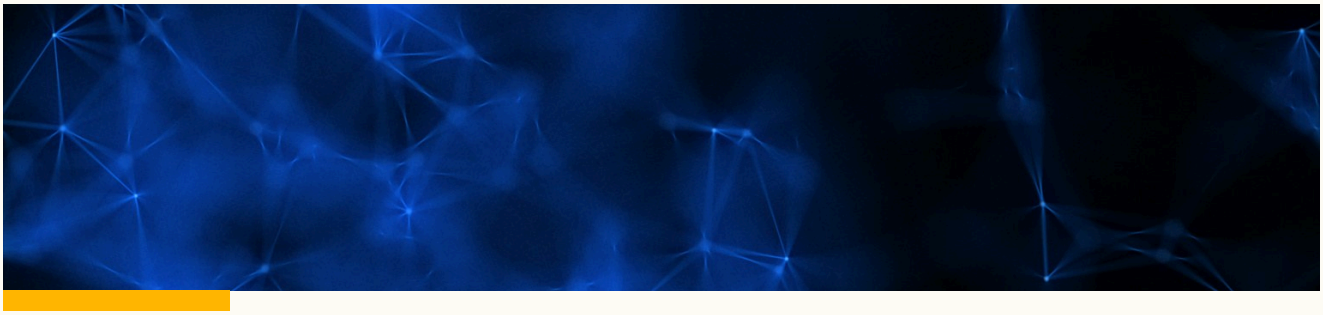
Without clear records, personal representatives may struggle to identify or access digital assets, even where probate authority exists.

Good planning focuses on identification and instruction, not sharing passwords inappropriately.

IDENTIFY AND RECORD YOUR DIGITAL ASSETS

KEEP CLEAR RECORDS FOR FUTURE ACCESS

HELP EXECUTORS MANAGE ONLINE ACCOUNTS EFFICIENTLY



Cryptoassets and emerging asset classes

Cryptoassets present particular challenges, including:

- Valuation at death
- Secure storage and access
- Loss of value if access details are missing

From a probate perspective, they are treated as assets of the estate, but practical handling requires careful record-keeping and specialist awareness.

A probate practitioner can help ensure cryptoassets are properly accounted for during administration.

How digital planning fits with Wills and LPAs

Digital assets planning often involves:

- Acknowledging their existence in a Will
- Keeping a separate, secure record of information
- Granting appropriate authority through LPAs for lifetime access

This separation helps maintain security while giving personal representatives and attorneys the tools they need.

What probate practitioners look for

During probate, digital assets are considered alongside traditional assets. Early identification helps:

- Avoid delay in applications
- Ensure accurate tax reporting
- Prevent oversight or loss

Clear records significantly simplify administration.

KEEP CLEAR RECORDS OF CRYPTOASSETS AND ACCESS INFORMATION

INCLUDE DIGITAL ASSETS IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

HELP AVOID DELAYS AND OVERLOOKED ASSETS DURING PROBATE



A practical approach

Digital life is now a normal part of modern estates. The aim is not complexity, but awareness.

By recognising digital assets as part of overall planning, individuals make things easier for those dealing with their affairs and enable probate practitioners to carry out the process efficiently and securely.

What happens next

Our companion guide, *Deeds of Gift: A practical guide to gifting wealth during your lifetime*, explains how formal gifting can provide clarity, support planning and help avoid future uncertainty.

If you would like to talk through your circumstances or understand what support might be helpful, our probate team is available to help when you are ready.

TALK TO AN EXPERT



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