



Understanding the Tri-Merge Report

A tri-merge credit report is a report that combines information from the three major credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Here are the steps to read a tri-merge credit report and identify late payments and derogatory history:

1. Review the Personal Information section: This section includes your name, Social Security number, date of birth, and current and past addresses. Make sure that all of the information is correct.
2. Check the Credit Summary section: This section summarizes your credit accounts and includes your current and past balances, payment history, and credit limits. Look for any late payments, missed payments, or accounts in collections.
3. Review the Account Detail section: This section provides more detailed information about each of your credit accounts, including the creditor's name, account number, and payment history. Look for any accounts that are past due or have been charged off.
4. Check the Public Records section: This section includes any bankruptcies, tax liens, or judgments against you. These items can have a significant negative impact on your credit score.
5. Look for inquiries: This section lists any companies that have requested a copy of your credit report. Too many inquiries can negatively impact your credit score.

To identify late payments and derogatory history, pay particular attention to the Credit Summary and Account Detail sections. Late payments and derogatory history will be indicated in these sections. Late payments are typically reported as 30, 60, or 90 days past due. Derogatory history can include charge-offs, collections, and judgments.

If you see any errors or inaccuracies on your credit report, you should dispute them with the credit reporting agency that provided the report.