



October is Cybersecurity Month

Protect Your Privacy and Devices

Our connected world provides convenience and communications, but it also makes us vulnerable to hackers, scammers and thieves.

Follow these simple but important steps to protect you, your family and your devices:

- KEEP CURRENT**— Keep your computer and smartphone software patched, update your operating system and run the latest browsers.
- BE A BLOCKER**— Download an ad blocker. Ad blockers can help filter out a lot of the “malvertising” noise, stopping dynamic scripts from loading dangerous content.
- PROTECT YOUR HOME**— Install a firewall on your home network. A firewall works as a barrier that filters out internet traffic that may be malicious.
- THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**— Always be careful when clicking on attachments or links in an email. Beware of emails with spelling errors/bad grammar, urgent or threatening language.
- PHRASES PASS THE TEST**— Instead of complex passwords, use easy to remember passphrases. They are harder for hackers to crack than even the most complicated passwords.
- BE DIFFERENT**— Use different passcodes for all online accounts and change them periodically.
- DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT'S BEEN?**— A malicious thumb drive can infect, control and steal contents from your computer. Check them for malware before they are connected to your network.
- LOOK FOR THE “S”**— When you send sensitive information over an HTTPS connection (displayed in the web address), no one can eavesdrop on it in transit. HTTPS is what makes secure online banking and shopping possible.
- BACK IT UP**— Back up your data regularly so that you can easily recover files in case of an attack.
- LOCK IT UP**— Never leave your laptop, smartphone or tablet unlocked while you're away. A quick key combination will keep bad actors from gaining access to your devices.