SECURE OUR WORLD

Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2023

THIS MONTH'S TOPICS:

20 Years of Awareness
Looking back at how far we've come...

Habits to Last a Lifetime
Implement these habits today...

Scam of the Month:
The importance of reporting...

The Monthly Mashup:
October Updates and Review...

Happy Cybersecurity Awareness Month! As our reliance on technology continues to grow, so does our need for strong cybersecurity.

This Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we will look back at how the online world has changed since this day of recognition was created over twenty years ago. Then we will look forward at the best practices we can all implement to create a safer future online.

In this month's newsletter, learn about the history of cybersecurity and the everyday habits that can help you live out this year's Cybersecurity Awareness theme: Secure Our World!

The History of Cyber

To celebrate 20 years of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, let's look back at some of the pivotal moments in cybersecurity:

Computer Fraud and Abuse Act

The increase of personal computers led to more concerns about the theft of property and data. In 1986, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act was passed in order to make certain computer crimes illegal.

The Growing Landscape for Cybercrime

The Dark Web as we know it took off in the early 2000's as an anonymous way to communicate and carry out illegal activity. A new age of computer hacking also began in the 1990's and increased throughout the early 2000's.

White Hat Hackers

These hackers search for bugs and vulnerabilities in computer systems. They help us try to stay ahead of the cybercriminals and give us insight into their methods and tactics.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month Declared

In 2004, October was declared Cybersecurity Awareness month. The goal remains to educate the private and public sectors so that everyone is aware of the risks of technology.

The High Stakes of Cybercrime

Cybercriminals are sending a record number of phishing messages. They are also asking for larger ransoms in their ransomware attacks than ever before. About 50% of people say they have been impacted by cybercrime, which is why it is crucial to raise awareness.

The Future of Awareness

Just like they have over the past 20 years, cybercriminals are coming up with new tactics to take advantage of the improved safeguards we have online. This is why raising awareness and keeping up with the cyber landscape is crucial to your online safety.

HABITS TO LAST A LIFETIME

To stay safe online, it is important to know what bad habits to break and what good ones to implement. Take a look at some eye-opening statistics and learn the details of two crucial cyber habits today.
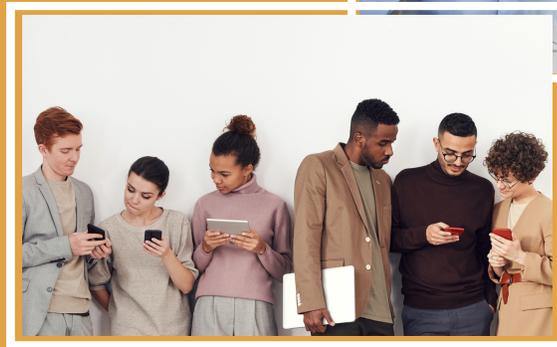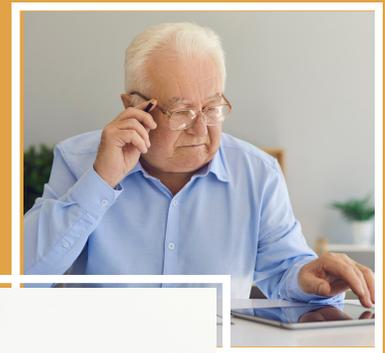
75%
Of cyberattacks start with an email.

36%
Of people surveyed always keep software up to date.

62%
Reuse passwords across accounts.

PASSWORD PROTECTION

Password managers allow you to store passwords and generate unique new ones. Adding multi-factor authentication increases security by asking for something like a fingerprint or code from another device to verify your identity. While no one method of password protection confirms full protection, when you combine habits like password managers, multi-factor authentication, and long, complex passwords, you can keep your accounts more secure.

UPDATING SOFTWARE

While enabling automatic updates is convenient, it isn't a completely hands-off method. In a recent study, 89% of Windows systems had automatic updates enabled, but less than 30% were actually up to date. Some automatic updates require the user to shut down their device. If these updates are put off, it could lead to serious vulnerabilities. Don't forget this crucial step. Get in the habit of updating software as soon as you receive a notification from your system that one is available.

SCAM OF THE MONTH

Each month we highlight a scam that demonstrates tactics criminals are using RIGHT NOW, to better prepare you when the next scam hits.

Leo was hard at work when he got a new message in his inbox. It appeared to be from his company's trusted supplier. However, upon closer inspection, he realized the sender's address was misspelled and that the message did not match the style typically used by the supplier. He decided it was likely a fake. Leo clicked the "unsubscribe" button on the email to take himself off the scammer's list. Little did he know, the unsubscribe link was part of the phishing attempt and was malicious.

After unsubscribing, he went back to work as usual. Despite his assumption that the message was a scam, Leo did not think it was necessary to report the message to anyone since he did not fall for it. Weeks later, the company suffered a major breach as many of their employees also fell for the phishing email. The cybercriminals infiltrated the company's systems and gained access to important data from many different departments.

Did you spot the red flags?

⚑ Leo should not have clicked "unsubscribe" on the email if he had any suspicions that it was a phishing message as scammers often use this tactic to trick users.

⚑ Leo did not alert his company about the phishing message. This simple step could have prevented the breach, or mitigated its impacts.

Do not respond to or unsubscribe from phishy messages. Just delete and block the sender.

Report any suspicious messages to your IT team and manager, whether you click on them or not.

REPORT

Why incidents are often underreported:

43% feared the repercussions of reporting an incident.

36% felt that reporting was unnecessary.

32% simply forgot to report.

Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility, but the proper authorities need to be informed when something occurs in order to provide the proper support. Only then can we come together as a team to combat cybercrime.

THE MONTHLY MASHUP

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a great time to refresh on security best practices. Establish good cyber habits now to help you protect passwords, update software, and report phishing, all year long.

WHY IS OCTOBER CYBER CAT'S FAVORITE MONTH?

Because October 16th was Global Cat Day!

Oh and Cyber Awareness Month I guess!

AWARENESS CHALLENGE

1. Share a tip from this newsletter with a friend or family member.

2. When you see a scam, post about it to prevent others from falling for it.

PICTURE WORD GAME

Clue: This years' cyber awareness month catchphrase!

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