October Is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Since 2004, the President of the United States and Congress have declared October to be Cybersecurity Awareness Month, helping individuals protect themselves online as threats to technology and confidential data become more commonplace. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA) lead a collaborative effort between government and industry to raise cybersecurity awareness nationally and internationally.

More and more, Americans are using new technologies and spending more time online. Our growing dependence on technology, coupled with the increasing threat of cyberattacks, demands greater security in our online world. This presents the need for simple, easy-to-understand resources and tips to help ensure their safety and security.

4 Things You Can Do

Throughout October, CISA and NCA will highlight key action steps that everyone should take:

Think Before You Click: Recognize and Report Phishing: If a link looks a little off, think before you click. It could be an attempt to get sensitive information or install malware.

Update Your Software: Don't delay -- If you see a software update notification, act promptly. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

Use Strong Passwords: Use passwords that are long, unique, and randomly generated. Use password managers to generate and remember different, complex passwords for each of your accounts. A passwords manager will encrypt passwords securing them for you!

Enable Multi-Factor Authentication: You need more than a password to protect your online accounts, and enabling MFA makes you significantly less likely to get hacked.

Source: https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month

Spooky Technologies That Exist Today

Technology makes our lives better. You watch shows and movies on your internet-capable high-definition television. You pay your bills electronically and save time and money. That's fine and dandy, until someone takes out the electronic banking system and the machines take over the planet. Sounds crazy? Perhaps.

Here is a list of scary technologies not likely to rain death and destruction on our little planet, though that doesn't prevent people from being unnerved by them.

Hearing Voices at the Store
Imagine that you walk into your friendly neighborhood big box store and instead of being greeted by a smiling retiree, you hear whispered voices prompting you to buy things. You spin around to see who's speaking, but there's no one there and none of the other shoppers seem alarmed. Have you finally gone nuts? No, but the advertising industry has.

A company called Holosonics has developed a technology called the Audio Spotlight system, which uses tiny speakers to focus sound into a very narrow beam. Ultrasonic frequencies are too high for the human ear to hear, but as the sound travels from the Audio Spotlight system's speakers, air distorts the sound and makes it audible. It's perfect for in-store advertising, but you'd have to be standing in the right place to hear it.

Google Glass
Google Glass, the high-tech specs with a built-in camera and pop-up display, turns the idea of Big Brother on its head. Maybe the surveillance menace of the future won't be a fascist regime with spy cameras on every corner, but rather an army of geeks recording every waking moment of their lives with a nod of the head and the wink of an eye.

Aside from the inherent dorkiness of Glass, privacy is the biggest concern with the search giant's latest foray into world domination. What's to stop a Glasshead from turning on his camera in the subway, the doctor's office or the gym locker room? Several U.S. casinos, bars and movie theaters have already banned Glass. Google says that Glass isn't that creepy. For example, a small light indicates when video is being recorded and Glass wearers have to look at a subject and wink to take a picture. Yeah, that's not creepy at all.

3-D Printers
Desktop 3-D printing is undoubtedly a great leap forward for small-scale manufacturing, but it's also a potential boon for thieves and low-budget terrorists. The real scary prospect is terrorists or fringe groups using 3-D printers to build guns, bombs and other weapons with nothing more than downloadable files.

Brain-Computer Interfaces
Once the stuff of science fiction, sophisticated brain-computer interfaces (BCI) are becoming a reality. And like many of the leading technologies in the news, this one is also being developed by real-world Tony Stark, Elon Musk.

Neuralink is working to develop high-bandwidth implantable computer interfaces that will allow doctors to restore sensory and motor function in people who are severely disabled through strokes and other neurological disorders. But of course, it won't end there. Musk hopes it can be used to enhance ordinary human brain function with better memory and cognitive abilities, as human brains and artificial intelligence merge.

Deepfakes
A notorious technology that uses artificial intelligence and deep learning to seamlessly replace faces in a video — might have some superficially beneficial applications. But on the whole, it's not just creepy, but existentially terrifying. Imagine being able to swap one person's face onto another person's body in full, high-resolution video. There are already deepfake video editors available, and they're no more complicated than traditional video editing software.

Smart Baby Monitors
Smart baby monitors are a part of the emerging Internet of Things, and they're welcomed by many parents because they allow you to see, hear, and talk to your baby from anywhere in the house.

But "smart" sometimes seems synonymous with "hackable," and we've already seen hackers gain access to smart monitors, like one especially creepy case in which a stranger threatened to kidnap a family's baby. And it can get worse. Someone speaking to your child and asking them to open a door or a window or go to a particular place is probably the worst that could happen with this type of technology.

Our CEO Is A Published Author

Stay one step ahead of cyber criminals to protect your business, your customers, and your money!

In Jason's first published book, he talks about why cybercrime today cannot be ignored and why your network and data are cyber criminals' #1 target!

Learn all the ways to protect yourself and your data. Contact us today for your copy of *Inside The Hacker Mind.*

Socktober Is Here!

Help make this a warmer winter for our neighbors in need! We are collecting NEW socks of all colors, sizes, and patterns the whole month of October and donating them to the Fort Wayne Community Schools Clothing Bank.

Socks are the most needed and least donated articles of clothing given, so help us do our part for the community.

We need socks for men, women, and kids! If you would like to do a little more we are also accepting hats, gloves, and scarves!

Grabbing The Bull By The Hornes - Preferred IT CEO, Jason Horne, Is Gaining Ground Fast

Check out Preferred IT Group's CEO, Jason Horne in MSP Success Magazine!

"So, in the sports bar that night, where patrons sampled cold beer and cheered on the Cubs and Komets, a vision for what would become Preferred IT emerged."

MSP SUCCESS MAGAZINE

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Jason Horne, Co-Founder Of Preferred IT Group

FUN FACT!

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No one yet has verified the identity of Bitcoin's founder.

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CONTACT US

Fort Wayne
260.440.7377

Warsaw
574.306.4288

Columbia City
260.213.4266

Indianapolis
317.426.8180

www.preferreditgroup.com

6333 Constitution Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

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