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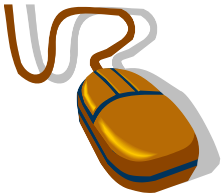
"Online Threats – Simple Rules & Tools"



PROTECTION

Personal Information

• Don't answer emails asking personal information (name, address, phone, account numbers, social security number, bank account information); delete them

• Talk to your kids about protecting passwords. Often kids share passwords which can lead to cyberbulling.

• Don't reply to Pop-up messages asking for your information. If you believe it is a legitimate company call the company directly to verify.

• Be sure to install an Anti-virus Software and keep updates current.

• Place important files stored on an external drive and store them in a safe place.

Shopping Online

• Don't provide your financial information until you verify the website is secure. (some indicators would be a lock icon or a website URL beginning with 'https' (the 's' stands for secure) but unfortunately no indicator is foolproof so exercise common sense and only buy from reputable companies).

Privacy Policies

• All websites should have a privacy policy explaining how your information will be used when registering with their site. If you don't see a privacy policy you may want to reconsider joining.

E-MAIL PHISHING

Helpful Hints

• 'Phishers' send out spam or pop-up emails claiming to be a company or someone you are doing business with in order to trick you into giving away your personal information.

• Some of the common scams are: Banks, online payment service, or even government agencies.

Report Fraud & Scams

• Report spam e-mails to spam@uce.gov or if you receive phishing scams reportphishing@antiphishing.org.

USER NAMES & PASSWORDS

• To log on to your computer, email accounts, websites (Facebook, Forums, Twitter, Skype, stumble upon, etc), you will need to enter your user name and password . **Use hard to hack passwords.** Try combining alpha & numeric . Change your password every 90 days or so.

FREE SOFTWARE & FILE-SHARING & VIRUSES

• Are the risks worth the reward?

• Make sure the material you are going to download is not protected by the copyright laws, which means you are breaking the law.

• Don't open emails having 'exe' executable files

• Always scan attachments before opening

• Don't download from the Internet without scanning the files first

• Don't open emails from unknown senders

• Empty the deleted emails folder immediately after deleting an email having a suspected virus

INTERNET BROWSER

Helpful Hints

• Periodically clean out history and Internet temp folders

• Set the days to keep the History to 1 day

• Add frequently visited sites to you favorites folder

Troubleshooting

• Check connection settings when internet is down. Check with Internet Service Provider (ISP) (e.g., Mediacom, Qwest, etc) to verify they are not experiencing connectivity/downtime problems.)

SAFETY ADVISE AND TOOLS

• Equip your family with a policy and guidelines you can all agree on to practice safe social networking and other online computing.

DEVELOP A FAMILY CONTRACT FOR ONLINE SAFETY:
http://www.safekids.com/contract_parent.htm

• **Learn the terms and learn how to protect and equip your children:**

Cyberbullying: http://csriu.org/cyberbully/cbbook.php

Sexting: What is it and how to prevent it.
http://www.safekids.com/sexting-tips/

Social networking and privacy:
http://www.safekids.com/facebook-privacy/

Cell Phone safety:
http://www.safekids.com/cell-phone-safety-tips/

Sources: **http://kids.getnetwise.org**, http://www.safekids.com/safety-advice-tools , http://csriu.org/ and www.onguardonline.gov/