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CITY OF MADISON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



National Cybersecurity Awareness Month



**CYBERSECURITY
AWARENESS
MONTH 2022**

In honor of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we are sharing cybersecurity tips each week in October! We're proud to be part of [National Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#) to help us all understand the latest ways to protect our City online.

Cybersecurity 101

Cybersecurity is the art of protecting networks, devices, and data from unlawful access or criminal use, and providing confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information. Much of your personal information is stored either on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Knowing how to protect your information is important, not just for individuals but for organizations, as well.

Every time you use the internet, you face choices related to your security. Making the internet safe and secure requires all of us to take responsibility for our own cybersecurity behavior. **Here are some ways you can help!**

Why Cybersecurity is Important

Cybersecurity is about more than reporting criminal activity. It's about protecting our information and making appropriate information more accessible for all.

Confidentiality.

Confidentiality ensures the data is accessible by only those who need it—once you post information on the internet, it is there forever.

Integrity.

Integrity ensures the data is accurate—corrupt data is of no value to those who need it.

Availability.

Availability ensures the data can be accessed by all those who need it, whenever they need it—fast and reliable connectivity makes computer systems operate more effectively.

The Cyber Basics

- Recognize and report phishing attempts.
 - At work, you can report phishing attempts to helpdesk@cityofmadison.com and City IT will work with you to mitigate the risks.
 - Learn more about identifying phishing attempts at the City of Madison: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/employeenet/information-technology/cybersecurity-awareness>
- Update software to ensure the most current protection.
 - City IT performs routine software updates and security patches to ensure our online safety. This includes our monthly Microsoft Updates and Email Maintenance.
- Use long, random and unique passwords.
- Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all important online activities to provide an additional layer of security.

Potential Cyber Threats

Malware.

A computer can be damaged or the information it contains harmed by malicious code (also known as malware). A malicious program can be a virus, a worm, or a Trojan horse. Hackers, intruders, and attackers are in it to make money off these software flaws.

Identity Theft and Scams.

Identity theft and scams are crimes of opportunity, and even those who never use computers can be victims. There are several ways criminals can access your information, including stealing your wallet, overhearing a phone call, looking through your trash, or picking up a receipt that contains your account number.

Phishing.

Phishing attacks use emails, texts, and malicious websites that appear to be trusted organizations, such as charity organizations or online stores, to obtain user personal information.

Staying Aware: How Cyber Criminals Lure You In

Phishing is one of the most common forms of cyber scams that you are likely to experience. The key is that both emails and texts should come from a trusted source. Know what to look for. **Here are examples of phishing that might be seen in an email to lure you in:**

"We suspect an unauthorized transaction on your account. To ensure that your account is not compromised, please click the link below, and confirm your identity."

"During our regular verification of accounts, we couldn't verify your information. Please click here to update and verify your information."

"Our records indicate that your account was overcharged. You must call us within 7 days to receive your refund."

If you receive an email like this at work, **delete it immediately and notify the Help Desk.**

Learn more about identifying phishing attempts at the City of Madison:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/employeenet/information-technology/cybersecurity-awareness>

Each of you are our first line of defense against cybersecurity threats. That's why we will continue to share more cybersecurity resources from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) throughout October to make us all more aware of these best practices.

Cybersecurity Awareness

Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving Through Technology

Previous Newsletters: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/employeenet/information-technology/training-support/it-monthly-newsletters>

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