

GIVING THANKS TO TECHNOLOGY

A review of the latest security threats and how you can avoid them



THIS MONTH'S TOPICS:

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It's important to stop and be thankful for the technology implemented to keep us safe. Although breaches can still occur, the technology available to us can help reduce these risks tremendously.

Cybercriminals are constantly improving their tricks and skills in an effort to gain access to our systems and wallets, so it's important that we keep pace. With a wide range of tools and resources available, it's time we take our cybersecurity efforts to the next level.

It's time to adapt and improve our digital skills, but don't forget, help is just a call away. Our IT superheroes are always ready to provide new technology and services to keep us safe - something we can all be thankful for!

The Password Paradox

Breaches can be very revealing for those involved, and the passwords exposed truly illustrate risky user behavior. Using our Dark Web insight, it's clear to see many of us are still using and reusing weak passwords. So think hard about all of **your** passwords... are they strong enough to keep your accounts safe?



So, how can we set up strong and unique passwords across all of our accounts? Technology can help! A password manager can help create and manage your passwords, while two-factor authentication can add an extra layer of security.

PASSWORD MANAGER BENEFITS

- No more CREATING passwords
- No more CHANGING passwords
- Only need to remember ONE password
- Inexpensive or sometimes FREE to use
- A large suite of SECURITY features to keep your accounts and passwords safe

Tip

For added security, enable **Two Factor Authentication** wherever possible. Start with critical accounts like banking, financial, and any work-related sites where sensitive data is accessed.

What to Encrypt When You're Encrypting

Encrypting a device or message is the best way to keep it secure if it were to ever fall into the wrong hands. Let's look at some examples of when it's the right time to encrypt our devices or messages.

	Encrypt	Don't Encrypt
 You need to send an email message to a customer with sensitive information about their account.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 You use a laptop at work to handle sensitive company and customer data on a regular basis.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 You use a personal tablet at home that may have your financial information, saved passwords or precious photographs and videos.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IT SUPERHEROES

We should all be thankful for the IT professionals that support our systems every day! IT stands for Information Technology, and this team of superheroes helps keep the office systems running smoothly. Let's take a look at some IT superpowers!



Super Speed - In a technical emergency, speed is everything! IT will work their magic to get to your location to resolve a problem lickety split!



X-Ray Vision - IT may be able to see complex problems by using their tools to diagnose issues on devices.



Invisibility - IT provides tools like firewalls and spam filters to keep the villains at bay.



Time Travel - When IT superheroes assist with backing up equipment, it's possible to retrieve a copy of important data if something were to happen.



Superhuman Intelligence - Technology can be a complicated subject, but IT professionals are experts and a go-to resource for technical questions.

SCAM OF THE MONTH

Each month we highlight a REAL scam that was submitted to our security team. We highlight these real examples of tactics criminals are using RIGHT NOW, that way you'll be better prepared when the next scam hits.

"Denise" waited a bit too long to buy a TurboGirl action figure - this year's "hot toy". To avoid disappointing her daughter during the holidays, Denise searched high and low online for any deal that had the doll at a reasonable price. She finally found a retail site where the doll was advertised at a lower than retail price promising next-day delivery. The site stated it was undergoing maintenance so payments could only be submitted by electronic funds transfer, or electronic currency, like bitcoin. Denise proceeded with the payment and not long after realized how suspicious the transaction seemed. After a week passed with no confirmation email or delivery, Denise realized she was scammed.



When shopping online, only visit reputable shopping websites. Watch for links to deals that seem too good to be true. These "bargains" are often a trick by scammers to lure victims to their fake page. You can certainly "shop small" and avoid the big-box store's site if you wish, but make sure the small business vendor you choose is safe and secure.



Make sure you are paying on a secure site. Before entering any payment information, check the web address. Does it start with **HTTPS** or have a "lock" symbol? That's a good sign but don't rely on this alone. Never pay for goods when odd forms of payment such as bitcoin are requested. Use a credit card over a debit card as credit cards tend to have more customer fraud protection.



Watch for texting and email scams regarding package delays. You know the tricks to spot these scams, but they can be a lot more convincing when we really are waiting on a package delivery. Even if the circumstances line up, it may just be a scammer's lucky guess. Your best bet is to go directly to the shipper or vendor's site directly to track package updates that way.

Did you spot the red flags?

- ▶ The popular and rare doll was available on this site and for a lower than retail price, common signs of a scam.
- ▶ The site stated it was undergoing "maintenance," which was just a ploy to trick the consumer into using an alternate form of payment that benefits the scammer.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Key Takeaways

Take advantage of the tools and resources around you. We are all on the same team, coming together to fight cybercrime.



Technology can help make our lives easier and more secure when used appropriately. Embrace it!



Beware of common holiday shopping scams. Stay cautious when browsing and shopping online, and don't click on suspicious texts or emails about delays.



Be thankful for the IT professionals that help provide the resources to keep your systems running smooth and secure.

Cybersecurity Word Search

Can you find the words below in this month's puzzle?

Bargain

Invisibility

Scam

Texting

Encryption

Package

Superhero

Thankful

Intelligence

Password

Technology

Giving Thanks to Technology

E P C N U U N J E B Y Y L P O
V W C O O D D G B R G A C A M
S C A M N I A T J S O Y L S G
W J O E K K T D H K L K K S N
F F E S C Q E P A A O P G W I
A N X A W Q I T Y U N N Z O T
S U P E R H E R O R H K G R X
I N T E L L I G E N C E F D E
L S N I A G R A B K E N I U T
I X M G H Z U B X L T U E E L
Y T I L I B I S I V N I F L C