

# FROM THE DESK OF MILIND SAMANT, ISO

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. This year's campaign theme — **"See Yourself in Cyber"** — demonstrates that while cybersecurity may seem like a complex subject, ultimately, it's really all about people. This October will focus on the "people" part of cybersecurity, providing information to help educate and ensure all individuals at SUNY Old Westbury make smart decisions whether on the job, at home or at the University – now and in the future.



This year's campaign goal is to have everyone implement these four action steps to increase online security. Below are 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.**

- Have you ever seen a link that looks a little off? It looks like something you've seen before, but it says you need to change or enter a password. Or maybe it asks you to verify personal information.
- It's likely a phishing scheme: a link or webpage that looks legitimate, but it's a trick designed by bad actors to have you reveal your passwords, social security number, credit card numbers, or other sensitive information. Once they have that information, they can use it on legitimate sites.

## 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 compromised.**

- If you can do just one thing to protect your online valuables, set up Multi-factor Authentication.
- It goes by many names: Two Factor Authentication. Multifactor Authentication. Two Step Factor Authentication. MFA. 2FA. They all mean the same thing: opting-into an extra step when trusted websites and applications ask you to confirm you're really who you say you are.
- Fortify your online accounts with MFA by enabling the strongest authentication tools available, such as biometrics or a unique one-time code sent to your phone or mobile device.

## KEEP SOFTWARE UP TO DATE AND DISABLE FEATURES

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

- Devices with critical security patches can be compromised and vulnerable to attack.
- When the manufacturer issues a software or firmware update, patch it immediately.
- Updates include important changes that improve the performance and security of your devices
- Disable features on the device you will never need or will never want to use.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES @ SUNY OLD WESTBURY IS COMMITTED TO KEEPING OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY CYBER-SECURE.

Although threats to cybersecurity may regularly make the news, we know how to guard against them—but we can't do it without your help! Did you know last year alone over 30 Colleges and Universities had some sort of security breach? That's why we're recognizing Cybersecurity Awareness Month this October by sharing tips to stay cyber secure, both at work and at home. To turn away cyber-attacks, a little knowledge teamed with critical thinking skills can go a long way!

## FCC SMARTPHONE SECURITY CHECKER

**This tool is designed to help the many smartphone owners who aren't protected against mobile security threats.**

- <https://www.fcc.gov/smartphone-security>

## REMINDERS:

**Set a strong password:** Use at least 8 characters in upper and lower case, numbers, and symbols;

**Keep your device locked:** Use a password, pin, pattern, or fingerprint lock when you are not actively using it.

**When in doubt, throw it out and contact the [Service Desk at servicedesk@oldwestbury.edu](mailto:servicedesk@oldwestbury.edu) or call X3098.**



*The information provided in the email message is intended to increase the data security awareness of SUNY Old Westbury end users and to help them behave in a more secure manner within SUNY Old Westbury work environment. While some of the tips may relate to maintaining a home computer, the increased awareness is intended to help improve the SUNY Old Westbury's overall cyber security posture.*

*Disclaimer: These links are provided because they have information that may be useful. The SUNY Old Westbury ITS Department does not warrant the accuracy of any information contained in the links and neither endorses nor intends to promote the advertising of the resources listed herein.*