

Information Security Newsletter

October 2017



National Cyber Security Awareness Month

The Internet is a shared resource,
and securing it is our shared responsibility.

From the Desk of Milind Samant, ISO

National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) is now its 14th year. This annual month-long event dedicates October to reminding all digital citizens that protecting our computers and networks is “**Our Shared Responsibility**” and that everyone plays a critical role in promoting safe computing. The NCSAM is led by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The month’s primary goal is to provide Internet users with the information and tools they need to be safer and more secure online, including education about how to protect personal information in today’s highly connected world. Old Westbury’s ITS department would like to take this opportunity to remind all of our digital citizens to:

STOP: make sure security measures are in place

THINK: about the consequences of your actions and behaviors online

CONNECT: and enjoy the Internet.

Cybersecurity in the Workplace is Everyone’s Business

Being an academic institution and a state entity – creating a culture of cybersecurity from the classroom to the breakroom is essential and a shared responsibility among all Old Westbury employees. While the good folks of ITS continue to work on NCSA’s advice (which is based on national standards), to develop a security plan which will not only **identify** our digital assets but will help to **protect** them, you can help us to **detect** information security incidents, and appropriately **report** such incidents by contacting the Service Desk (call x3098 or send an email to servicedesk@oldwestbury.edu.) Then you can expand this to your home: identify what you would hate to lose, and ensure that information is protected with endpoint device security software and backed up someplace safe.

Today’s Predictions for Tomorrow’s Internet

We at Old Westbury are taking a look into the future through the lens of the connected Internet and trying to identify strategies for security, safety, and privacy while leveraging the latest technology. With the explosion of digital interconnectivity, it is critical to explore everyone’s role in protecting our cyber ecosystem. NCSA’s top tips include:

- **Learn how to safeguard your Internet of Things (IoT) devices:** Protecting devices like wearables and smart appliances can be different than securing your computer or smartphone. Research how to keep an IoT device secure before you purchase it and take steps to safeguard your device over time.

- **Pay attention to the Wi-Fi router in your home:** Use a strong password to protect the device, keep it up-to-date and name it in a way that won't let people know it belongs to you.
- **Delete when done:** Many of us download apps for specific purposes or have apps that are no longer useful or interesting to us. It's a good security practice to delete the apps you no longer use.

The Internet Wants You: Consider a Career in Cybersecurity

A key risk to our economy and security is the shortage of cybersecurity professionals to protect our extensive networks. Growing the next generation of a skilled cybersecurity workforce – along with training those already in the workforce – is a starting point to building stronger defenses. Here are a couple of to-dos for anyone interested in a cybersecurity career of their own:

- Volunteer at schools, after-school programs, boys and girls clubs, and community workshops to teach kids about online safety and cybersecurity careers. Check out [NCSA's online safety resources](#) for ideas on what to cover and materials you can use.
- Learn more about starting your own path to a cybersecurity career by checking out the [National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education \(NICE\) Framework](#). The framework provides information on what knowledge, skills, and abilities are valued by employers for different cybersecurity jobs.

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, contact the Service Desk at servicedesk@oldwestbury.edu or call X3098.**

Provided By:

<p>Information Technology Services Division of Business & Finance Evan Kobolakis, CIO Len Davis, Sr. Vice President & CFO</p>	 <p>MS-ISAC Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center</p>	 <p>SUNY OLD WESTBURY OWN YOUR FUTURE</p>
--	---	--

The information provided in the Monthly Information Security Newsletter 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.