

Title of Session: CyberSecurity Awareness Month

Moderator: Davina Pruitt-Mentle

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Room: Cyber3 Group

DavinaP: Hello everyone!

CindyCho: hi

AshleyRR: hiya!

WendyGst3: Hello

BJB2: Davina, would you like to start with introductions?

WendyGst3: Sure

SethM joined the room.

DavinaP: Yes--Davina Director for Ed tech Policy research and outreach at Maryland welcome!

BJB2: welcome, Seth. We're just starting with introductions

SethM: ok

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania and am a retired communications/arts teacher

BJB2 . o O (everyone please tell Davina where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach)

AshleyRR: I am Ashley, from Houston, Tx... preservice teacher with EC-4 certification

CindyCho: hi...I'm in California and teach 5th grade

WendyGst3: I'm from California. I teach 5th grade

DavinaP: welcome!

AshleyRR: thanks

WendyGst3: Thank you

CindyCho : thanks

DavinaP: First, does everyone know that October is National Cyber Security Awareness month!

WendyGst3: Now I know

AshleyRR: I do now

DavinaP: Excellent--and please share if your district or school or community has any activities happening to celebrate?

BJB2 chuckles...this group is on the ball, Davina!

WendyGst3: Not that I know of

AshleyRR: None that I know of going on in my school

CindyCho : I haven't really heard anything from my district about it

JeffC: our kids will be circumventing district policies by logging onto proxy servers and downloading the latest viruses and videos.

DavinaP: The goal of National Cyber Security Awareness Month is to increase awareness about cyber security issues and engage users in implementing additional security measures to protect their computers.

DavinaP: Government, nonprofit groups, and corporations all participate in this nationwide effort to get the word out. Through media events, new research, and local events NSCA has developed several tools to help promote awareness including a list of ten things you can do during the month, web banners that can be placed on your website, and other materials.

DavinaP: Jeff--oh no I hope not

JeffC: well... they don't need a special month to do that.

DavinaP: visit <http://www.staysafeonline.org/> to see some basics before we start...

BJB2 checks to see if everyone got the url

JuliaN: Yes

BJB2: thanks, Julia

SethM: yes

BJB2: thanks, Seth

DavinaP: A deep link <http://staysafeonline.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19> will take you to some activities happening this month--so perhaps something is happening close by and you were just unaware

CindyCho : yup

DavinaP: some of the suggestions from the national cyber security alliance and homeland security ...

DavinaP: to educate or promote awareness in security includes...

DavinaP: Protect your personal information. It's valuable.

DavinaP: we can move on and look at website later--I can discuss what's on the site

DavinaP: the reason to protect information...

DavinaP: Why? To an identity thief, it can provide instant access to your financial accounts, your credit record, and your other personal assets.

DavinaP: can anyone share what strategies you should take and what you should share with students, co-workers and parents to take to insure this?

JuliaN: I read that using the same password for everything is like using the same key to open everything.

CindyCho : I know for students, we always tell them to keep their passwords a secret.

AshleyRR: Make sure the sites you use are secure

BJB2: how do you know when a site is secure?

LalaH: isn't the lock symbol, a good indicator of security

CindyCho : that's what I always look for

DavinaP: Excellent--so passwords---different ones, strong passwords, changing often etc...

HankyolY: yes by downloading anti-virus program at your computer

DavinaP: what makes for a good password?

WendyGst3: I have a problem with too many passwords

CindyCho: letters and numbers

AshleyRR: I always use letters numbers and punctuation

JuliaN: it can't be something too obvious

WendyGst3: When asked for my password I always get them mixed up

LalaH: I have all my different passwords written in a book at home

AshleyRR: that's a good one

AshleyRR: my online banking allows me to change my username also

BJB2: I read where a good password to use multiple times is a combination of letters and numbers and then ending in the site or some reference to the site like fb for facebook

WendyGst3: Lala, wouldn't that be unsafe?

DavinaP: passwords should be 8 characters or longer, a mixture of upper and lower case, numbers and letters and punctuation marks make it even better

HankyolY: I change my password frequently.

LalaH: the cyber thieves aren't in my home, and I'm not trying to hide it from my family, so I figure it's ok

DavinaP: two sites to test the strength of your password are <http://www.securitystats.com/tools/password.php> and <http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/password/checker.msp>

DavinaP: take a minute and try them they are interactive sites (I hope they load for you)

HankyolY: in many email accounts such as msn show the strength of the security when you enter your password

DavinaP: a good way to remember is to think of a phrase and then just use the first letter or numbers and punctuation

DavinaP: Excellent Hankyo

DavinaP: another person mentioned making sure that if you have transactions (buying something for example--or giving information) that the site is secure

JuliaN: But what does it mean when a message flashes that asks if you would like to see secure and unsecure things/images, etc.?

DavinaP: you tell this by two means--a padlock icon (depends on browser but watch upper or lower corner and the url will change to https or shttp (s = secure))

JuliaN: That is good info. I have never heard of shttp

AshleyRR: me either

CindyCho: same here

DavinaP: when messages flash--usually when you are on a secure site and that site is pointing to a image or site not secure--it is just giving you a heads up...

DavinaP: if you are confident with the secure site location you usually do not have to worry about going to or downloading a image from a non secure site

DavinaP: Never send your personal information via email because email is not a secure transmission method.

DavinaP: another tip for protecting your info is Don't open unsolicited or unknown email messages.... this includes

DavinaP: don't reply or click on the link in the message.

CindyCho: how do they get our email address?

JuliaN: I don't even open forwarded emails. Who needs another chain letter!!

DavinaP: many times a link will send you to a site that looks "real" --it used to be you could look at the url and tell if it was real or not but lately...

HankyolY: after I participated in an online survey website I got junk emails all the time

DavinaP: scammers have been getting pretty good and even the URL's have what looks like the Real URL--if in doubt-go to google (or whatever search tool) search for the business or organization--it should take you to the "real" website

DavinaP: great that you are not opening forwarded email--although now that I think about it I often forward a message to continue the discussion--something to think about

ZinthiaA: is it safer to pay your bills online than use mail?

JuliaN: I always put my name in the subject line so that the receiver knows who I am

DavinaP: another interesting tip from the FTC federal trade commission states Read website privacy policies.

JuliaN: I'm sure that the fine print may say something about sharing someone's address

DavinaP: Zinthia--from the feedback I have seen the answer is yes--as long as you are doing it via a secure site--and that you have a bank that hasn't gone out of business as of yet

JuliaN: Good point!

DavinaP: sharing someone's address??? explain please

JuliaN: I know that businesses often share phone numbers. Do they share email addresses?

DavinaP: interesting question one of the FTC tips suggest Read website privacy policies. why?

DavinaP: they should explain what personal information the website collects, how the information is used, and whether it is provided to third parties. The privacy policy also should tell you whether you have the right to see what information the website has about you, whether they provide and/or sell your information to third parties, and what security measures the company takes to protect your information. If you don't see a privacy policy – or if you can't understand it – consider doing business elsewhere.

SethM: so, does Tapped In have a privacy policy?

BJB2 nods solemnly to Seth

SethM . o O (hmmmmm)

DavinaP: Keep your passwords in a secure place, and out of plain view. Don't share your passwords on the Internet, over email, or on the phone. Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) should never ask for your password.

DavinaP: some districts are doing the following at least for admin and sometimes diff levels for teachers (ie for grades and IEP records etc...

DavinaP: To further increase the security of your online identity and to help protect you from account hi-jacking, take advantage of stronger authentication tools wherever available. This may take the form of two-factor authentication – the combination of a password or PIN number (something you know) with a token, smart card, or even a biometric device (something you have). Stronger authentication can also come from a behind-the-scenes identity-verification process, which uses various data to establish whether or not a user is genuine. Ask your bank, your regular online retailers, and your

Internet Service Provider (ISP) if they offer stronger authentication tools for more secure transactions.

DavinaP: another item to make sure you practice and to share with students and parents to practice is...

DavinaP: Use anti-virus software, a firewall, and anti-spyware software to help keep your computer safe and secure.

DavinaP: how many of you have each of these?

AshleyRR: I do at home and school

AshleyRR: a really strong firewall is in place in my district

JuliaN: I have all three

CindyCho: I do at home

CindyCho: the school doesn't let us go into many websites...and I hope it's to protect us. :)

AshleyRR: I'm sure it is

DavinaP: excellent that each of you have some--bad that school limits you

DavinaP: how often do you update your anti-virus ?

AshleyRR: whenever the computer prompts me to do it

CindyCho: I had the free trial...but once that expired...I haven't gotten another

DavinaP: Oh no!!! very important

DavinaP: To be effective, your anti-virus software should update routinely with antidotes to the latest "bugs" circulating through the Internet. Most commercial anti-virus software includes a feature to download updates automatically when you are on the Internet.

BJB2 . o O (Seth, look at <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/help/privacy.jsp>)

DavinaP: thanks BJ

JuliaN: The anti virus software at school downloads updates automatically

SethM: thanks!

DavinaP: as of late anti-virus usually updates daily due to the number of virus codes appearing--usually happens or at least you can prompt it to happen late at night

DavinaP: too many people however get in the habit of clicking remind me later and click off when it prompts them

LalaH: do anti-virus programs need to be updated

LalaH: I mean, if you buy a program, years later do you need to change it?

BJB2 suspects the answer is yes, and updates should occur fairly frequently

BJB2 . o O (monthly if not more often)

DavinaP: some have subscriptions--others ie universities or comcast come with that subscription

DavinaP: firewalls is yet another item to include

DavinaP: Firewalls help keep hackers from using your computer to send out your personal information without your permission. While anti-virus software scans incoming email and files, a firewall is like a guard, watching for outside attempts to access your system and blocking communications from and to sources you don't permit.

ZinthiaA: Thank you for the info Davina.

AshleyRR: I used to have a firewall that would tell me when someone tried to access me on campus and where they were

DavinaP: unfortunately many operating systems (ie windows) come with the firewall turned off and people do not know they have to turn it on

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall. Five more minutes left, Davina. The next Cyber3 discussion will take place on November 3

SergioV joined the room.

BJB2: hi, Sergio. Welcome

SergioV: thank you!

DavinaP: for firewall on ---start--settings--control panel security and then make sure it is turned on

SergioV: I am new at Tapped In.. I think I talked to BJB last Tuesday

DavinaP: for more exciting items to do each day to learn more visit the interactive October calendar

DavinaP:

<http://www.edtechpolicy.org/C3Institute/cybermonth/October2008/c3awarenessOct2008.html>

DavinaP: looks like are time has flown by

BJB2 nods sadly to Davina

SethM: thanks!

CindyCho: thank you!

DavinaP: I wish everyone a safe and secure October!!! and see everyone in November

AshleyRR: thank you so much

DavinaP: good night all

LalaH: I'll be back for a better session [Lala had trouble with her connection-bjb]

AshleyRR waves goodbye to everyone

BJB2: Thanks, Davina

----- Private Messages -----

Private dialog with: SergioV

BJB2: Sergio, this discussion is almost over.

BJB2: have you looked at the Tapped In calendar?

BJB2: some great discussions this week

SergioV: I just noticed that, I just got to my computer right now

BJB2: Wednesday and Thursday have some later discussions scheduled

SergioV: I wanted to go observe a chat for my homework

SergioV: Thank you

BJB2: something is scheduled for Tuesday, Wed, and Thursday

SergioV: oh.

BJB2: so you should be able to make one of the discussions

BJB2: click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen

SergioV: I totally will try

SergioV: thanks

BJB2: then click on Calendar in the blue menu bar

BJB2: your calendar is set to your time zone

SergioV: so after the discussions set on the calendar are done, no one else talks?

BJB2: that is correct.

SergioV: oh...

BJB2: . o O (we've just spent an hour discussing!)

SergioV: thanks for the info

BJB2: and the people who lead the discussions volunteer their time

BJB2: they're as busy as we all are!

SergioV: are there any transcripts online that I can read?

BJB2: take a look at www.tappedin.org/transcripts