10 Things You Can Do To Practice Cyber Security

Here are a few steps that you can take to not only take part in National Cyber Security Awareness Month, but to practice cyber security throughout the year:

1. Change your passwords. Encourage others to do the same.

2. Make sure that your anti-virus software and firewalls are up-to-date. New threats are discovered everyday and keeping your software updated is one of the easiest ways to protect yourself from an attack. Set your computer to automatically update for you.

3. Hold an event at your local school or college campus designed to increase student and staff cyber security education and awareness. Download EDUCAUSE's cyber resource kit online at www.educause.edu.

4. Print and post cyber security tips near your computer. Review them with your family.

5. Create a separate section for cyber security tips on your organization's web site. Download online buttons and banners about phishing, identity theft, file-sharing, and other cyber security topics at www.msisac.org or www.OnGuardOnline.gov and place on your organization's home page.

6. Use regular communications – newsletters, email alerts, websites, etc. – to increase awareness on issues like updating software processes; protecting personal identifiable information; and securing your wireless network.

7. Subscribe to the National Cyber Alert System from the US Computer Emergency Readiness Team at www.us-cert.gov. Through the Alert System, you can receive timely information about current cyber security problems to protect home and office computers. This information includes weekly bulletins with summaries of new vulnerabilities, patch information when available, and tips on common security topics, such as privacy, email spam, and wireless protection.

8. Talk to people that you know – your children, co-workers, friends – about good online safety and security habits, including protecting their personal information and their reputation. Post the link to www.staysafeonline.org and www.us-cert.gov to your community listserv.

9. Back up important files. If you have important files stored on your computer, copy them onto a removable disc, and store it in a safe place.

10. Make cyber security a habit. Everyone needs to focus on cyber security every month, not just in October.

October is **NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH**

Our Shared Responsibility
staysafeonline.org