Security Awareness Newsletter

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Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

"Someone cracked my password. Now I need to rename my puppy."

Cybersecurity Safety for the Holidays

The holiday season is a time of joy and celebration, but it's also a time when cybercriminals ramp up their efforts to take advantage of unsuspecting individuals. As we prepare to embrace the Holiday spirit, it's crucial to remain vigilant about online cybersecurity. In this article, we'll explore the key steps to ensure a secure and cyber-safe holiday season.

1. Be Cautious with Online Shopping

Online shopping is convenient, especially during the holiday rush. However, cybercriminals often set traps in the form of fake websites, phishing emails, or malicious links. To stay safe:

- Shop from reputable websites.
- Look for secure HTTPS connections and padlock symbols in the browser's address bar.
- Avoid clicking on unsolicited emails or pop-up ads.

2. Use Strong and Unique Passwords

Ensure your online accounts are protected with strong, unique passwords. Consider using a password manager to generate and store complex passwords. Regularly update your passwords and enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) where possible to add an extra layer of security.

3. Be Wary of Holiday Phishing Scams

Phishing emails often surge during the holiday season, masquerading as festive e-cards, package tracking notices, or charity appeals. Exercise caution and verify the sender's identity before clicking on links or downloading attachments. Legitimate organizations won't ask for sensitive information via email.

4. Keep Your Devices and Software Updated

Outdated software and devices can be vulnerable to security threats. Ensure your operating system, antivirus software, and applications are up to date with the latest security patches. Regular updates help to fix vulnerabilities that cybercriminals might exploit.

5. Beware of Social Media Oversharing

While it's natural to share your holiday experiences on social media, be cautious about oversharing personal information. Cybercriminals can use this information for social engineering or identity theft. Adjust your privacy settings to limit who can see your posts.

The Holiday season is a time for spreading love and joy, but it's also a time to prioritize online cybersecurity safety. Cybercriminals are ready to exploit any opportunity, and the holiday rush provides ample cover. By following these tips and remaining vigilant, you can enjoy a secure and worry-free Holiday while protecting your personal information and financial security. Stay safe, and have a wonderful holiday season!

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