

POSSIBILITIES

FALL 2017

Division of Information Technology

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, so it's a great time to talk about protecting yourself from cyber scammers and menacing online thieves!

In this issue, we take a look at the importance of file encryption and secure file transfer on campus and share tips on how to stay safe online.

Find more security tips to protect you, your work and your gear at security.tamu.edu.

Tell us what you think about this newsletter at tamu-it-coms@tamu.edu.

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH -

"Keep Tradition Secure"

There's a hacker causing trouble around campus! Known as Bad_Bull, he's hacking accounts and mocking Texas A&M traditions.

That's the premise of The Division of Information Technology's "Keep Tradition Secure" game as part of National Cyber Security Awareness Month. In addition to the online game, you can trek across campus to catch Bad_Bull in the interactive version!

Complete either game between **October 9-20** to receive your choice of a FREE 8 oz. yogurt from Yogurtland, Blue Baker iced coffee or 12th Man towel from Aggieland Outfitters. You will also be entered to win an Apple Watch! One will be awarded for the interactive game and the other for the online version.

Help us get rid of Bad_Bull at Texas A&M! Get started now at keeptraditionsecure.tamu.edu.

KEEP
TRADITION
SECURE

<http://keeptraditionsecure.tamu.edu>



Encryption Required for Confidential University Information



Cyber incidents are on the rise and universities are a key target. Texas A&M requires encryption of all university-related, confidential information:

Who needs to use encryption?

Any employee who comes into contact with any type of confidential information should use proper encryption methods.

What must be encrypted?

- Any portable computing device such as a smartphone, tablet, laptop or thumb drive that is used to access or store confidential information must be encrypted.
- If you are transferring confidential information in any way, it must be encrypted.
- If you are remotely accessing confidential information, you must use an encrypted connection, such as VPN.

Examples of confidential information include (but are not limited to):

- Social Security numbers (SSNs)
- Financial account numbers
- Some research data
- Credit card numbers
- Passwords
- Medical records
- Student education records (including schedules)

How do you encrypt files, computers or mobile devices?

- Ask your department IT staff about the best encryption method for your situation.
- Whole Disk Encryption encrypts your entire device, and prevents a thief from even starting your computer without a passphrase. Both Windows and Apple devices come with encryption software built in. For additional information, visit the Knowledge Base (see URL below).
- Individual File Encryption is only encouraged when you are absolutely sure where all confidential information is located on your computer. Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) tools can protect files, folders and emails. More information and free tools are available at gnupg.org.
- Texas A&M provides Filex (filex.tamu.edu) to securely upload and send confidential information. Confidential information should never be transferred over email.



Poster Campaign Spreads Security Awareness Across Campus

To raise cyber security awareness, the Division of Information Technology has launched a new, award-winning poster campaign to display in the Open Access Computer Labs across campus. These tips (and many more) can be found at security.tamu.edu.



From photos of cute pets and culinary creations, to eclectic music playlists and big milestones, social media is used to share many aspects of life. How much is too much? Avoid revealing your current location, bragging about a pricey new purchase or posting personal information that can be used to reset passwords. These are all things cyber criminals look for.

Learn more at:
u.tamu.edu/socialmedia

Everyone has received phishing emails touting jackpot winnings or great investment opportunities. Those are the obvious scams that prompt you to hit “delete.” But, there are convincing emails, online ads and pop-ups with links to fake websites, malware downloads and other scams. When in doubt, hover over links to ensure the URL goes to a legitimate location that you recognize.

Learn more at:
u.tamu.edu/ProtectMyGear

Social media is full of quizzes that let us know which movie character is our doppelganger, how smart we are, or which generation we most relate to. While these are fun, they can be dangerous. In order to get “accurate results,” users may innocently reveal private information (such as their mother’s maiden name or birthplace) that scammers use to crack passwords and locate other data.

Learn more at:
u.tamu.edu/socialmedia

“Keep Tradition Secure” Preview

Test your cyber security knowledge in our online and interactive “Keep Tradition Secure” game between October 9-20 at keeptraditionsecure.tamu.edu. Here are the types of questions you can expect as you track down the notorious hacker, Bad_Bull.

-- TEASER QUESTIONS --

1. Many browsers have a “private” or “incognito” feature so users can access web pages without browsing history being stored by the browser. Can internet service providers view a user’s online activities during private browsing?

YES **NO**

2. True or False? When shopping online, it is safer to use a debit card than a credit card or payment service.

TRUE **FALSE**

3. In 1912, Old Main burned to the ground. This building was its replacement and can still be found.

- A. Williams Administration Building**
- B. Francis Hall**
- C. Academic Building**

SPEAKERS PANEL SCHEDULED

A speakers panel on cyber security careers is scheduled for October 19, 2017, at noon in Koldus 111. Speakers include local security experts, and the event is co-sponsored by the Brazos Valley Chapter of Project Management Institute and the Central Texas Chapter of the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA).

We have a new name!

To align with our peer units within the President’s cabinet, Texas A&M Information Technology has changed its name to the Division of Information Technology.

1. Yes, 2. False, 3. C