Cyber Security Awareness

SLC CYBER Security: Online Privacy

Online, each day, we are faced with a number of risks, but we can minimize these risks by making smart choices. We don't want you to hide from all the fun that can be had online, but we do want you to think before you go back to school shopping on Amazon.ca or start playing a new game. Does that website really need to know where you live just for you to read a news article? Or does that media site really need to know your email address? When websites ask for this information it may not seem like a big deal, but what if it was someone you were talking to online, would that make it any different? These are just some of the things that we want you to be thinking about when you are online. One way to see what kind on information can be found online about you is to simply google your name. If your social media accounts show up, it is time to change your privacy settings! Below are some other privacy tips to keep in mind while online!

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1. **Use long and complex passwords and passphrases.** Back in September we did a newsletter on this topic because of how important it is! Remember to be creative and don't share your password even if the person is your best friend. These are just a few tips to keep your password secure. See our September newsletter for more tips and tricks to keep your account safe.

2. **Be mindful of what you post online.** Remember that what you put online stays online, even if you think you have deleted it. This has been seen often with public figures posting things that they probably shouldn't to social media, but as staff and students, things posted online can dramatically affect your life as well! Things like a new cellphone number or a change of address may be fun to announce, but keep in mind who can see that post. Some of this information is better shared in person or through private messages.

3. **Browse the web in secret.** A number of browsers now have a hidden feature that can help keep your online actions a little more stealthy! This feature is great to use when you are doing online shopping or online banking. The feature prevents cookies or other information from being stored. So next time you're online looking to buy text books, go "incognito".

4. **Public Wi-Fi? Please don't.** Public Wi-Fi seems like a great idea, and in a pinch it works great… but what and who else is on there? Every time you use a public Wi-Fi network, you open your device, and everything on it, to a whole host of issues. This includes viruses and information theft. Here at the College, we recommend that staff and students use the secure network, SLCConnect. Out in the community, if you can find secure networks - great!

5. **Trusted apps only!** Reputation is everything when it comes to apps, which is why downloading them from unknown sources is a huge gamble. When you download an app from the app store, you have a certain level of security provided, but when you go outside of the app store there are no guarantees. This isn't to say everything in the app store is great either. Remember to read the reviews and keep apps up to date.

Now that you are an expert in online privacy… SHOUT OUT TO US! Let us know your top five privacy tips by tweeting us or mentioning us on FB!

For more topics on e-security click here.

Got a great idea for next month's **SLC CYBER Security –** timely information, you need to know? Share it! Let us know here or tweet us using #SLCE-security.