



Protect Yourself and Your Computer - Basic Security Practices

We rely so heavily on our computers to provide various services that we sometimes overlook their security. Because our computers have such critical roles in our lives and we trust them with so much personal information, it's important to improve their security so we can continue to rely on them and keep our information safe.

How BCIT makes your computer safe

- Install and run security software and keep it updated:
 - Anti-virus
 - Anti-spyware
 - Anti-malware
- Secure wireless network
- Intrusion detection system
- Firewall protected network
- County wide Managed Updates

What You Can Do

- Allow regular updates and software patches to your operating system and to major applications such as:
 - Internet Explorer
 - Adobe Reader
 - Java
 - Windows
 - Office
 - Adobe Flash
- Protect your passwords:
 - Use different passwords on different sites.
 - Change your passwords frequently.
 - Never reveal your passwords.
- If your Web browser offers an AutoComplete feature, disable it.
- If your Web browser asks you to save a password decline it.
- Log off systems but remember logging off websites will not clear your browser's memory.
- Close your Web browser when you are finished accessing your accounts to clear your browser's memory of your sensitive account information. Click the X at the top right-hand corner of your browser screen.
- Protect data (password protect sensitive documents)



- Be especially careful using social networking sites:
 - Phishing scams, viruses and spyware are spreading and could jeopardize company information.
- Practice good defense:
 - Don't open suspicious e-mails.
 - Don't click on links in an e-mail, even if they seem okay (news alerts).
 - Don't open e-mail attachments directly. (Save the file and run a virus scan.)
 - Be cautious of new technologies. Computer criminals exploit changes in the environment.
- Visit US-CERT (United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team) sites to get the latest information on security threats and fixes:
 - <http://www.us-cert.gov/current/>
 - <http://www.us-cert.gov/home-and-business/>
 - <http://staysafeonline.org/>



Home and Business

Explore the resources in this section to learn more about cybersecurity and to better secure your home and small business networks.

Featured Articles



Basics of Cloud Computing

This informational paper describes what cloud computing is, discusses how it can help small businesses and home users, and outlines possible security concerns.



Top 10 Ways to Improve the Security of a New Computer

Because our computers have such critical roles in our lives and we trust them with so much personal information, it's important to improve their security so we can continue to rely on them and keep our information safe.



Virus Basics

Learn about viruses, what they can do to your systems, and how to avoid them and lessen their impact.



Home Network Security

Your home network is susceptible to intrusion and attack. Learn more about the security risks and how to guard against them.