



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
County Executive

NASSAU COUNTY
SPiN
A Crime Prevention Partnership
SECURITY / POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK



LAWRENCE W. MULVEY
Commissioner

How You Can Contribute to Cybersecurity Awareness

Here are a few steps that you can take to not only take part in National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but also practice cybersecurity 365 days a 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 every day 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 cybersecurity education and awareness. Download EDUCAUSE's cyber resource kit online at www.educause.edu. Print and post cybersecurity tips near your computer. Review them with your family.
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5. Create a separate section for cybersecurity tips on your organization's Web site. Download online buttons and banners about phishing, identity theft, file-sharing, and other cybersecurity topics at www.msisac.org or www.OnGuardOnline.gov and post them to your organization's home page.
6. Use regular communications - newsletters, email alerts, Web sites, 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 U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team at www.us-cert.gov. Through the Alert System, you can receive timely information about current cybersecurity 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, e-mail 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 personal information and reputation. Post links to www.staysafeonline.org and www.us-cert.gov to your community listserv.
9. Back up key 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 cybersecurity a habit. Everyone needs to focus on cybersecurity every month, not just in October.

(Source: DHS.gov)