CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH TIPS OF THE DAY

WEEK 1

The Most Important Thing to do Right Now to Protect Your Cyber Security:

Monday, Oct. 2, 2017:

Lock down your Login. Always enable stronger authentication for an extra layer of security beyond the password. Strong authentication – sometimes called 2-step verification, multi- or two-factor authentication, or login approval – provides an extra layer of security beyond your username and password to protect against account hijacking. Many online services, including email and social networks, offer this free extra security protection to help ensure it's actually you trying to access your account – not just someone who stole or guessed your password.

Here are the most common strong authentication methods you can choose from:

- **Biometrics:** A fingerprint, facial recognition or other unique personal identifier, used during the login process.

- **One-time codes:** A unique code sent after entering your username and password, usually by text to a mobile device that is then entered on the site to verify it's you.

- **Security keys:** A small device that plugs into your USB port or is used in conjunction with a phone, which you use when logging in.

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017:

Use Unique, Long and Strong Passwords. In addition to being unique, security experts agree that a strong password is at least 12 characters long, containing a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Maintaining strong and unique passwords will decrease the risk of password guessing based on commonly used passwords, information about you that might be publicly available, or password cracking tools that hackers use.

It can be hard to remember a lot of strong and unique passwords. Thankfully, there are a lot of tools out there to help. Using a password manager only requires you to remember one master password to access your other passwords. If needed, you can write passwords down on a piece of paper and store them in a secure location away from your computer, but be careful not to store passwords right on your computer.

Find out how long it would take to crack your passwords. Use the Dashlane Password Strength Checker: https://howsecureismypassword.net/

Friday, Oct. 6, 2017

Don't Wait. Update. Update your security software, operating system and web browser regularly. Running out-of-date software can put you at risk of security vulnerabilities that hackers seek out and exploit. Security experts agree that keeping your software — including Internet browsers, operating systems, plugins, and document editors — up to date on internet-connected devices is a fundamental cybersecurity practice and helps prevent malware infections that could compromise your devices and accounts.

When you receive notification that a software update is available, install it as soon as possible. Knowing your programs and operating system is important. Some programs, like reputable antivirus/security software and some web browsers, including Chrome, automatically update. Mobile operating systems, apps, and other critical software may require your action to update.