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Organization: Department of Energy
Title of Entry: Newsletter
　　　　Cyber Security - Beware of the World Wide Web

Description of Entry:

　　　　The Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Cyber Security, located at our Agency, hosts a variety of awareness and training events throughout the year to increase general users' awareness of cyber security threats within the day-to-day on-line activities. One of the tools used to increase that awareness is through The Front Burner Cyber Security Newsletter. The newsletter is published by-monthly with a mass mail distribution sent to our employees as well as posted in bins at each elevator for public consumption.   It provides an array of safety computing tips and practices for the general user not only while at the workplace, but at home place as well.

New Year's Cyber Resolutions

"I will get fit and update security patches on my home computer."

Un-patched software is one of the most common and easily exploited vulnerabilities. It is also easy to fix. Patching your home computer is an effective way to protect yourself and your family. Whether you're a Mac user (yes, Macs do get viruses), are loyal to Linux, or choose Windows to see the world, there is a patch out there for you. Office software and games have security patches too. So don't leave yourself or your family vulnerable to cyber attackers, take the pledge and patch regularly.

"I will lose 10 lbs. and not accept candy (or media) from strangers."

Free USB drives, CDs, DVDs and other media giveaways you find at conferences and receive through the mail can open a back door to your computer. Using this back door, attackers can gather your personal information including usernames and passwords. Your identity and your company or agency's data may be at risk. Avoid the temptation.

"I will spend more time with my family while I scan my computer for malware."

Stay healthy and eliminate viruses and other malware from your computer by regularly scanning after you surf the web. Most antivirus/antispyware software programs allow you to schedule these scans automatically, leaving you with free time to throw another log onto the fire, sit back, and relax. And remember, your scanning software is only as good as its last update. So set your security software to update every time you turn on your computer. And never leave your computer connected to the Internet when it's not in use.

"I will change the batteries in my smoke detector and change all my passwords."

We have passwords for everything these days: we use them for work, online banking, online buying, managing our retirement accounts, or logging into Facebook. Managing all these passwords can be a daunting task. And if we're not forced to change them by the system, we tend to leave them as they are. Now is the time for a fresh start.

1. Make a list of all the places you use passwords;
2. Use easy-to-remember passphrases. (e.g. **M!dog$n@mei$5poT** for *My dog's name is Spot)*; and
3. Change all your passwords.

Though it is tempting, do not use the same passwords for all your computer and online accounts. Consider using a different password that is dedicated to accounts for financial institutions or high risk access. And most importantly, never use your work passwords for personal passwords. If cyber attackers get your information, they will try to use it everywhere they can. Maintaining separate passwords acts as another layer of defense and can minimize the damage attackers can cause.
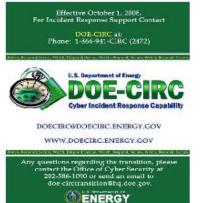
The 30th
DOE Cyber Security Conference

The 30th DOE Cyber Security Conference is scheduled for May 11-15, 2009 in Henderson, NV. The focus of the conference is on developing and enhancing performance-based cyber security, while maintaining compliance in a constantly evolving threat environment. This conference is an excellent opportunity for DOE Federal and contractor employees to learn about emerging cyber security technologies and changes in the global cyber threat. Additionally, the conference provides an open forum for exchange of information and ideas.

Stay tuned for the Call for Papers, Award Nominations, Registration, and Agenda information to be posted on www.cio.energy.gov in the near future.

Hope to see you there!

A Cyber Security Inaugural Event

Effective October 1, 2008,
For Incident Response Support Contact

DOE-CIRC at:
Phone: 1-866-941-CIRC (2472)

U.S. Department of Energy
DOE-CIRC
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Any questions regarding the transition, please contact the Office of Cyber Security at 202-586-1090 or send an email to doe-circtransition@hq.doe.gov.

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The Enterprise Incident Capability (EIC) will provide a single point of focus for all Departmental incident management activities. EIC includes the DOE Cyber Incident Response Capability (DOE-CIRC) operating in the DOE Enterprise Security Operations Center (ESOC), replacing the Computer Incident Advisory Capability (CIAC) and the Information Assurance Response Center (IARC). Beginning October 1, 2008, DOE-CIRC will coordinate the reporting and management of all cyber incidents across the Department.

Never Hesitate to Report! If you suspect you have been a victim of a cyber security breach or believe sensitive information may have been exposed or compromised contact your help desk immediately.

Cyber Hero Answers Your Security Questions

Q: "Do I need to safeguard my personal information while I'm at work?"

A: Absolutely. It is always a best practice to minimize the amount of personally identifiable information you store on your work computer or transmit via your work email. Avoid communicating sensitive personal information, such as your Social Security Number from work computers, unless it is required in the performance of your duties. When emailing sensitive personal information always encrypt the message.

Q: "How do I lock my computer when I am away from my desk?"

A: Locking your computer is a security best practice that keeps unauthorized individuals from gaining access to your computer and its information. By selecting the Ctrl, Alt and Delete keys, you will be given the option to "Lock Computer." Just remember: *Control, Alt, Delete when you leave your seat!*

Phone: 202-586-1090   Web: http://cio.energy.gov/cybersecurity.htm   e-mail: cyber.security@hq.doe.gov