

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Deck the Halls and Guard Your Firewalls:

A Tech-Savvy Guide to Holiday Safety Chat

Ah, the holidays! A time for joy, laughter and awkward family conversations about technology safety. Nothing says "festive" quite like discussing the ins and outs of phishing, smishing and cyber hygiene with Aunt Mildred. But fear not, brave holiday conversationalists! We've got your back with these tech safety tips that will leave your family and friends both informed and mildly entertained!

Phishing: Not Just for Fishermen. Start the conversation by enlightening your family about the exciting world of phishing. No, it's not a hobby for fisherman, though that would make for a compelling holiday story. Explain that phishing is when cyber-criminals send sneaky emails pretending to be your long-lost Nigerian cousin or a deposed prince desperately seeking help (and your bank account details). Suggest that much like fishing, the key is to avoid taking the bait. No, Uncle Bob, that email promising a lifetime supply of eggnog is not legit.

Smishing: Texts from the Grinch. Move on to smishing, the mischievous cousin of phishing. Paint a vivid picture of the Grinch texting away, trying to steal your personal information in 160 characters or less. Remind your family to be wary of suspicious texts, especially those claiming they've won the North Pole lottery. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Also, advise against responding with a string of holiday emojis - the cyber Grinch might interpret that as consent.

Passwords: More Sacred than Grandma's Fruitcake. Transition smoothly into the importance of strong passwords. Compare them to Grandma's legendary fruitcake - they may be hard to create but they're worth the effort. Encourage your relatives to avoid passwords like "Password123" and opt for using a sentence with a combo of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters. After all, no one wants their accounts to be easily cracked as a nutcracker at the holiday party.

Two-Factor Authentication: The Holiday Backup Plan. Unveil two-factor authentication as the holiday backup plan. Picture it like securing a second slice of your favorite dessert - a sweet and reliable backup plan that makes everything more delightful. Urge your family to embrace it like the cozy warmth of Mom's mashed potatoes, assuring them that nothing beats the comfort of knowing their digital world is as secure as a turkey in the oven.

Santa's Social Media Naughty List. Remind everyone that while Santa may be making his list, he's not the only one checking it twice. Aunt Karen, your social media friends do not need to know each and every gift that little Tommy received. No need to post hour by hour updates of holiday plans and locations. Unless you actually want to leave a breadcrumb trail for thieves straight to their holiday feast. After all, while the holidays are about sharing, not everything is meant for the digital fireplace - some gems are best kept in the family album, away from the watchful eyes of the online grinch.

Updates: More Essential Than Ugly Sweaters. Like ugly sweaters, tech updates aren't at the top of the "looking forward to" list, but they are essential for maintaining appearances. Those updates contain security patches that keep devices safe from grinchies trying to sneak down their virtual chimneys.

As you wrap up your tech safety "elf talk", you can bask in the glow of having enlightened your family on the finer points of cyber security. So this holiday season when Uncle Dave starts talking about the weather for the umpteenth time, steer the conversation toward the fascinating world of tech safety. After all, nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a family committed to digital security. Cheers to a secure and slightly geeky holiday season!

Team Celebrations!



Jeff
December 2
Birthday

Leigh

December 14
RWK Anniversary



Brian
December 18
Birthday

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Quick Tech Tips!

YouTube Shortcuts

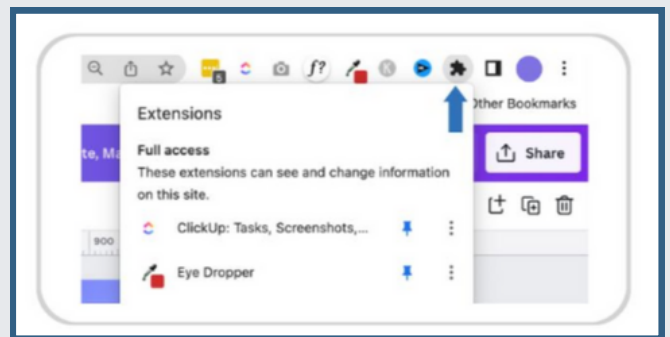
Did you know these YouTube tips?

- “K” - Will pause the video
- “J” and “L” - will skip backward/forward 10 seconds
- “M” - will mute the video



Be Cautious of Social Engineering

Those “fun” little social media games where you fill out your pet's first name or your favorite ice cream flavor are dangerous! Hacker use them to guess security question answers



Review Terms Of Service For Every Extension You Install

Most extension will collect your browsing history and sell it. **Protect your privacy!** Read the terms of service before you click install.
(This is a good rule of thumb for all software in general!)