



SECURITY NEWS

Department of Information Technology



#1 HOLIDAY PHISHING

This holiday season, stay safe and vigilant against cyber threats and scammers. Phishing this time of year is high; pay attention to email subjects related to shipping, credit charges, coupons, returns, account holds, etc. Also, be careful scanning random QR codes. Visit the website to learn more.



#2 REPORT LOST/STOLEN DEVICES

If you have been issued a state owned laptop, phone or tablet and it goes missing or is stolen, it is critical that you report the lost or stolen device to the the DOIT service desk so the device can be wiped of all state sensitive information.



#3 TRAVEL SAFELY

During planned holiday travel, do not forget to maintain proper security best practices such as choosing your WiFi access points wisely, do not post your current location on social media, and safeguard your devices and passwords at all times. Also, consider your physical security as well. Have a safe place to have packages delivered to and perhaps consider installing a home camera system to deter would be thieves.



#4 BACKUP DEVICES

Backup all of your devices before leaving for vacation. In the event that you lost your devices or you fall victim to theft or malware infection, it is important that you have access to your critical files.



#5 UPDATE YOUR SYSTEMS

The holiday time period is a good time to ensure all of your systems and applications are up to date. Updating your system is a great way to reduce vulnerabilities in your home system so any guests you have do not fall victim due to your compromised home network.

#6 SECURE BANK ACCOUNTS

It is also a good time of year to lock debit and credits cards that you do not use and turn on alerting so you can track all card purchases. Review your account activity for fraudulent transactions and ensure your banking passwords are unique. If possible, enable multifactor authentication (MFA) for additional protection.

#7 RELAX AND HAVE FUN

We all have something we can be concerned about each day; our finances, health, safety and that of our loved ones. It is good security practice to take this time of year to slow down, relax, take a pause, care for yourself, give thanks, and embrace life and love. Happy holidays and thank you for everything you do to secure Maryland!

