Tips & Advice
Issue IX
Pumpkin Spice & Cybersecurity

We are entering the season of pumpkin spice everything, ghosts, goblins, and all things scary! October is also National Cybersecurity Month and now is the perfect time to be aware of all the ghosts (scammers) out there that are trying to wreak havoc in people's lives.

We have listed a few key points that will help protect you from scammers, as well as some links to websites that provide additional information on cybersecurity awareness and how to stay safe!

1. **Make sure your software is up to date.** Out of date software is more vulnerable to attacks. Most software can be set to automatically update when updates are available. That is a good option to choose so you don't forget to do so.
2. **Make your passwords long & strong!** It is suggested that passwords be at least 12 characters in length, contain upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and a special character. You should also stay away from including your name or common phrases in your password.
3. **Use multi-factor authentication.** Multi-factor authentication requires both your password and another form of identification such as, a separate passcode, another question, or a special key. The use of multi-factor authentication protects your account even if your password becomes compromised.
4. **Back up your files.** Have a backup of your files on either an external hard drive or cloud storage. If your files are ever compromised, you will still have access to your information.

For more information, please visit this site:

https://niccs.us-cert.gov/national-cybersecurity-awareness-month-2019

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