

# CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH



## IT'S CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH!

It is that time of the year when it's good for us as practitioners to review the areas in our own personal life for security practices that many of us reinforce in the businesses we work in each day. More so, it's also an opportunity to reinforce digital security with our own family and friends, too. Here are a few tips we can keep in mind for ourselves and share with those we care about most in our lives. Let's go!

**Secure Communications:** So, what is your favorite secure communications tool and how often are you using it? I know some cybersecurity practitioners who use Threema or Signal and that's it (no Apple iMessage, or anything else). Period. Others create a bit of flexibility depending the nature of their communication or who they are communicating with. October can be a good time to tighten our own habits a bit, and commit to using these tools more regularly. Like with most things in cybersecurity, it's great to be proactive instead of waiting for a time when we are forced to make this change.

**Phishing:** In October alone, it could be a fun exercise with a group of cyber practitioners here in the WiCyS community to see who can spot as many phishing/vishing/smishing/other communications that come to you. It can be a way to spice things for the month and a way to make it fun and competitive. At the end of the month, sharing with each other what you received could be a good learning experience to share with family and perhaps even those you work with daily.

**Secure Browsing:** Privacy and security settings updates happen throughout the year. Taking the time to review the settings a couple times a year can be helpful. Separately, for those who have family and friends that have not completed this exercise before, even updating 4-5 of the privacy settings on the browsers they use can help with reducing tracking online, and of course, decrease the opportunity of exposure to malware or another malicious threats.

**Routines:** The key thing here is to develop the right routines consistently. It may not matter if we send messages in more secure communications once in a while, but could matter if we did it consistently. It may not matter if we develop the critical eye of recognizing a phishing email when they are in our email box, but don't actually take the appropriate steps to validate it one way or another. Consistency is key in strengthening our personal cyber routines as cyber practitioners. Have fun this month and be safe!

**TOGETHER, WE THRIVE!**

This document provided through contributions of the Equity Advocacy Committee

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