NUIT Tech Talk - You are the Key to Information Security

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Roger Safian
r-safian@northwestern.edu
The Plan...

• Northwestern, cellular, home
  – “To infinity…and beyond!”
• Protect your data
• Protect your devices
• Protect your network
• There is no SECURITY without U
• Questions? Ask away!
Passwords/phrases/codes

• If you think there is a problem, change your password
• Choose strong passwords
  – Longer is better
    • Ilikeusinglongpasswords!
    • Try to use a mix of uppercase, lowercase, numbers and punctuation
• Avoid using common passwords
  – Google “50 common passwords”
• NEVER share your password
Security Questions

- Avoid using personal information
  - Know yours that is online
- Don’t answer the question
  - Question: What is your favorite movie?
  - Answer: Key Lime Pie!
- Never use pop culture
  - 867-5309
- If write the answers down make sure to secure the document
Privacy

• The time to care is NOW!
• Assume what you put online is public
• Ask “Would I share this with…”
  – If the answer is no, then don’t share
• Cameras – they are everywhere
  – Not all of them are yours
  – Make sure you control those that are
SSN/Account Numbers

• Before you give out yours, ask these questions
  – Why do you need this number?
  – Can I still get the service if I don’t provide it?
  – What will you use the number for?
  – How will you protect it?
Keep Devices Up To Date

• The Operating System
  – Automatically check for updates
    • Check for updates frequently
  – Always install them

• Applications
  – Java, Reader, Flash, Browser
    • These should update automatically
    • Always use the latest version
  – Other apps?
    • Check on a regular basis
Downloads

• Favor the major sites
  – Apple, Amazon, etc.
• Try the original source
• If you have to install some other tool before you can use what you’ve downloaded, that’s a sign something could be wrong
• Delete what you no longer need
Be Suspicious

• If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is
  – Always listen to your mother

• Why would this be free?
  – How do they make money if they give stuff away?

• How did they find my email address
  – There is no email address database

• Is it really urgent that I do this?
  – For the criminal, it is
And Be Smart

• Always look at the URL before you click or enter information
  – Use caution with shortened URLs
• Don’t trust pop-up messages
• Do you see the proper branding?
• Use “Favorites” for your regular sites
  – Especially for sites with a password
• Don’t assume that Google results are free from malware
Backup Often

- Assume you will lose a device, so backup:
  - Business files
  - Financial data
  - Entertainment
- Consider an off-site option
- Test to make sure you can recover the data you expect
Have Tools Available

• Anti-viral software
  – Very important to keep this current
  – Update multiple times per day if possible
• Enable browser security features
  – Pop-up blockers and phishing filters
• Use something like Web of Trust
• Make sure your firewall is enabled
Odds and Ends

• Use encryption where practical
• Try VPN for remote connections
• Make sure you know who is using your home wireless network
• Only enable features you are using
• Consider a loaner device for travel
• Report scam messages to security@northwestern.edu
Online NUIT Resources

- Computer and Network Security
  - www.it.northwestern.edu/security/
- How to identify scam email
  - www.it.northwestern.edu/security/phishing/
- Information Security News Podcasts
  - www.it.northwestern.edu/security/podcast.html
- Security Flyers
  - www.it.northwestern.edu/security/flyer.html
Contact Information

• Roger Safian
  – (847) 467-6437
  – security@northwestern.edu
  – r-safian@northwestern.edu

• NUIT Support Center
  – (847) 491-HELP (4357)
  – consultant@northwestern.edu
Questions?