

Help us secure our world this cybersecurity awareness month

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October is [Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#), an international initiative that educates everyone about online safety and empowers individuals and businesses to protect their data from cybercrime. Even amidst large-scale data breaches and cyberattacks, Cybersecurity Awareness Month reminds everyone that there are simple, effective ways to keep yourself safe online, protect your personal data and ultimately help secure our world.

The theme for Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2024 is *Secure Our World*. This initiative reminds everyone to understand the simple ways to protect yourself, your family and your business from online threats. We're increasingly connected through digital tools and more of our sensitive information is online. This convenience comes with risks. Each of us has a part to play in keeping ourselves and others safe. It's easy to do and takes less time than you think.

As part of the *2024 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report*, [key insights](#) were compiled. The one we'll highlight here is that the median time for users to fall for phishing emails is less than 60 seconds. Considering this fact, we recommend that when you are reading emails or any information online, **take more than a minute to determine if it's legitimate before you engage or respond.**



Image provided by Information Technology.

As part of this year's campaign, a couple of sisters who have experienced online scams are willing to share their stories. Please stay tuned each week (via Thursday announcements) as they will share what happened, how they approach technology differently because of their experience and the most important things they would like others to know.

The 2024 Cybersecurity Awareness Month focuses on the top four ways to stay safe online. Please stay tuned as we bring you information and tips each week this month!

- Use strong passwords and a password manager to save them securely.
- Turn on multifactor authentication on all your accounts.
- Recognize and report phishing – still one of the primary threat actions used by cybercriminals today.
- Update software – allow manufacturer updates to be applied and restart your devices when requested. ●