

# Own your role in Cybersecurity

## START WITH THE BASICS



Every individual should own their role in protecting their information and securing their systems and devices. There are many steps individuals can take to enhance their cybersecurity without requiring a significant investment or the help of an information security professional. Below, NCSA highlights 8 tips you can put into action now.

### Long & Unique Passphrase

Length trumps complexity. A strong passphrase is a sentence that is at least 12 characters long. Focus on positive sentences or phrases that you like to think about and are easy to remember



MAKE A LONG, UNIQUE PASSPHRASE

### Passphrases aren't enough

Use 2-factor authentication or multi-factor authentication whenever offered. Think of biometrics, security keys or a unique one-time code through an app on your mobile device



USE 2FA or MFA

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT



### When in doubt, throw it out!

Links in email, tweets, texts, posts, social media messages and online advertising are the easiest way for cyber criminals to get your sensitive information. Be wary of clicking on links or downloading anything that comes from a stranger or that you were not expecting. Essentially, just don't trust links.

KEEP A CLEAN MACHINE



### Keep a clean machine

Keep all software on internet connected devices - including personal computers, smartphones and tablets - current to reduce risk of infection from ransomware and malware. Configure your devices to automatically update or to notify you when an update is available

### Create backups

Protect your valuable work, music, photos and other digital information by making an electronic copy and storing it safely. If you have a copy of your data and your device falls victim to ransomware or other cyber threats, you will be able to restore the data from a backup.



BACK IT UP: 3-2-1 rule



OWN YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

### Own your online presence

Every time you sign up for a new account, download a new app, or get a new device, immediately configure the privacy and security settings to your comfort level for information sharing. Regularly check these settings (at least once a year) to make sure they are still configured to your comfort.

SHARE WITH CARE



### Share with care

Think before posting about yourself and others online. Consider what a post reveals, who might see it and how it might affect your or others. Consider creating an alternative persona that you use for online profiles to limit how much of your own personal information you share.

GET SAVVY ABOUT WIFI HOTSPOTS



### Get savvy about WiFi hotspots

Public wireless networks and hotspots are not secure, which means that anyone could potentially see what you are doing on your laptop or smartphone while you are connected to them. Limit what you do on public WiFi, and avoid logging in to key accounts like email and financial services. Consider using a virtual private network (VPN) or a personal/mobile hotspot if you need a more secure connection.

