



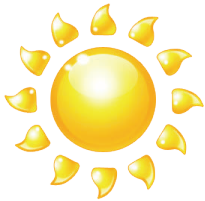
Take a second to be secure.

The Security Minute

A communication of the Longwood University Information Security Office

Read *The Security Minute* Online: www.longwood.edu/infosec

August 2009



A Note from the Information Security Office

As we begin the 2009-2010 academic year we hope you will remember that it is our actions, as individual IT system users, that most greatly influence the security of Longwood University's information, resources and systems.

How can you help us keep Longwood secure? Stay informed by reading *The Security Minute* and visiting our web site (www.longwood.edu/infosec) often. Get involved by participating in our policy reviews on Blackboard. Commit to learning something new when you complete MOAT this year. Stay tuned throughout the year for more opportunities to help us keep Longwood secure.

What I Learned About Information Security This Summer



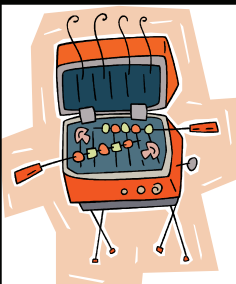
Several layers of protection keep you from getting burned.

The web is like a really sunny day at the beach when sunscreen alone won't protect you. Protecting yourself and your computer from malware requires taking several safe computing measures. Make sure any computer you use (at Longwood or at home) has antivirus software installed and working, but remember that is only one layer. You should also make sure your computer is regularly updated with patches to your operating system and applications. Also, remember to practice safe surfing habits online (ex. don't be fooled by fake antivirus—see the [January 2009 issue](#)).



Fishing is fun for the fisherman, but not the fish.

Getting hooked by a phishing scam, the kind where scammers try to trick you into revealing your password or social security number, is never fun. Once again this summer Longwood received a wave of phishing messages directed at our users. These e-mail messages were meant to look like they came from IITS, but they were actually from scammers trying to steal your password. IITS will never ask you for your password and you should never provide your password to anyone.



Never share your secret recipe.

Every king or queen of the barbecue has a secret recipe – a recipe that is never meant to be shared even with friends and family. In the computing world passwords are the secret recipe for protecting the personal information stored on Longwood's computer systems. Would you place your secret recipe under your keyboard where anyone walking by could find it? Of course you wouldn't. It's always best to commit your password to memory without writing it down. If you must write your password down store it in a place that you would trust to store your credit card. And of course, never share it!



Always be careful not to reveal too much.

When you post information on Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and the like you have less control than you think. Once you post information online it may be available to anyone in the world forever. In general, if you wouldn't share a piece of information with a room full of strangers don't post it online, even if you think access to your profile is protected.



The Security Minute is a monthly publication aimed at raising awareness of information security related issues and concerns. If you have any questions regarding the newsletter, please contact Melissa Short at 434-395-2034 or shortmj@longwood.edu.