



Take a second to be secure.

# The Security Minute

A communication of the Longwood University Information Security Office

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## How to spot a Social Engineer

*Amateurs hack systems, professionals hack people.*

— Bruce Schneier

Social engineering, “is the art of manipulating people into performing actions or divulging confidential information. Social engineer’s say it is similar to a confidence trick or simple fraud, the term typically applies to trickery or deception for the purpose of information gathering, fraud, or computer system access; in most cases the attacker never comes face-to-face with the global criminals/victims.” (from Wikipedia) The use of psychological methods to exploit human tendency and trust leave these “professionals” with 4 vulnerable avenues to take: Carelessness, Comfort Zone, Helpfulness, and Fear.



### one man's trash

Being CARELESS by not implementing, using, or enforcing proper countermeasures can allow a social engineer, particularly their use of reconnaissance, to find what you’ve left lying around or what you’ve thrown or given away.



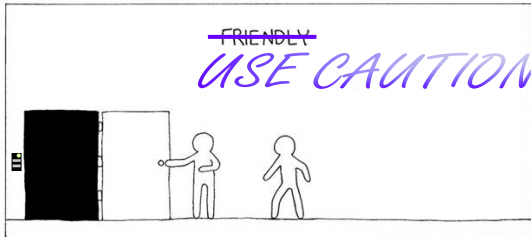
### you're in my bubble

Being too COMFORTABLE can lead to a perception of no-threat, which allows a social engineers to watch over your shoulder, pretending to be anyone from tech support to a co-worker, steal right from under your nose, or go to the dark side (insider threats).

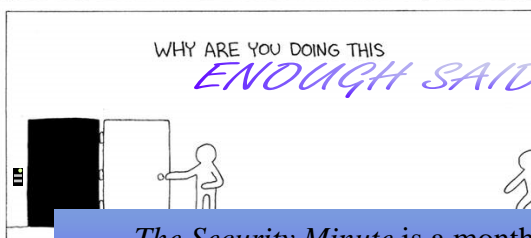
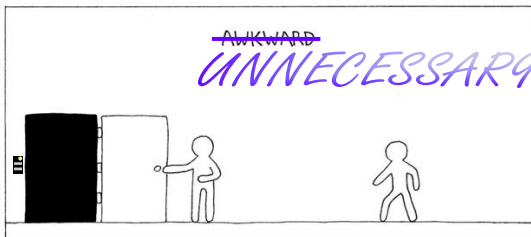
### HOLDING DOORS

A QUESTION OF DISTANCE

### who are you?



Being HELPFUL is often a piece of a prim and proper set of manners, but it also allows social engineers to prey on people generally trying to help, even if they don't know who they're helping into the building or over the phone.



### i think it's for you

Being anxious or in a state of FEAR can get the

social engineer just what he wants...access; whether a classic boss or director asking for a new password or a utility worker showing up after a natural occurrence (thunderstorm, tornado, etc.)



The Security Minute is a monthly publication aimed at raising awareness of information security related issues and concerns. Please contact Jennifer Eckrote at 434-395-2034 or eckrotejl@longwood.edu.

