



Take a second to be secure.

# The Security Minute

A communication of the Longwood University Information Security Office

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## Bright Idea!

Lock your computer when you walk away.

## What is least privilege?

Least privilege is the concept that users should run with the lowest level of access necessary to complete a task.

For example, users should not run as administrators to check e-mail or search the web because completing those tasks doesn't require administrator privileges.

## Be a Search Superstar:

Avoid Scams and Malware Online by Following Safe Searching Practices

You may have loved Jessica Biel in *The Illusionist* or on *7<sup>th</sup> Heaven* but searching for the latest news on this star may be detrimental to your computer and you. For the third year McAfee, the antivirus company, has made a list of the most dangerous celebrity names on the Internet and Biel topped the list. Celebrities on this list are deemed dangerous because of the likelihood that search on their name could take you to a site containing threats like spyware, adware, spam, phishing viruses and other malware.



Among the problems discovered on sites for this year's top 15 most dangerous celebrity searches were sites that used video and photo downloads to trick you into downloading spyware, adware, viruses, etc. and sites that participated in shady business practices such as collecting and selling personal information without your consent. However, sites that spread celebrity gossip aren't the only sites that are plagued with such problems.

Regardless of whether you are searching for celebrities or course materials read ahead for a few tips for safer searches:

**Do not run as a local administrator on your computer.** At Longwood faculty and staff are required to run as users, not administrators, on their computers. If you have an administrator account for your computer, use it only when you actually need it to perform a specific administrator task. Also, keep your home computer safe by setting up an administrator account that is separate from your user account and use that administrator account only when you need it.

**Keep your antivirus up-to-date.** You should never disable or reconfigure the security controls on your university computer. At home you should set your antivirus to auto-update so that you can keep your computer protected without having to think about it.

**Be wary of prompts and pop-ups.** Accessing online multimedia resources is especially dangerous because you are often asked to install viewers or updates to access the content. Sometimes these installations are legitimate and sometimes they are malicious. Never update any software from a prompt from a pop-up window.



*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](mailto:shortmj@longwood.edu).