Cybersecurity Awareness Month
October 2024

From Civil Air Patrol's National Cyber Programs team and the National Cybersecurity Alliance, here are three things you can do now to improve your cybersecurity posture:

Update Your Passwords and Use a Password Manager

Having unique, long, and complex passwords is one of the best ways to immediately boost your cybersecurity. Yet, only 43% of the public say that they "always" or "very often" use strong passwords. Password cracking is one of the go-to tactics that cybercriminals use to access sensitive information. If you are a "password repeater," once a cybercriminal has hacked one of your accounts, they can easily access your accounts.

One of the biggest reasons that individuals repeat passwords is that it can be tough to remember all of them. Fortunately, by using a password manager, individuals can securely store their unique passwords in one place. Meaning, people only must remember one password. In addition, password managers are incredibly easy to use and can automatically plug-in stored passwords when you visit a site.

Enable MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication)

Enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA), which prompts a user to input a second set of verifying information such as a secure code sent to a mobile device or to sign-in via an authenticator app, is a hugely effective measure that anyone can use to drastically reduce the chances of a cybersecurity breach. In fact, according to Microsoft, MFA is 99.9 percent effective in preventing breaches. Therefore, it is a must for any individual that is looking to secure their devices and accounts.

Activate Automatic Updates

Making sure devices are always up to date with the most recent versions of updates is essential to prevent cybersecurity issues from cropping up.

Cybersecurity is an ongoing effort, and updates are hugely important in helping to address vulnerabilities that have been uncovered as well as in providing ongoing maintenance. Therefore, instead of trying to remember to check for updates or closing out of update notifications, enable automatic update installations whenever possible.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month resources are located on the CAP Cyber website here and staysafeonline.org.

For more information on CAP's cyber programs, check out cyber.cap.gov or Facebook at facebook.com/civilairpatrolcyber.