**WISCONSIN CYBER THREAT RESPONSE ALLIANCE**

**ONLINE ANONYMITY IS NOT JUST FOR CRIMINALS**

Securing your identity, online activity, your network and computer is a top priority before you begin searching online. There are simple steps you can take to be sure you are minimizing your vulnerabilities and protecting your identity and activity. Here are five (5) basic items you need to be sure you are using or doing:

* **Secure Email / PGP Encryption**
* **Secure Browsers**
* **VPNs / Proxies**
* **Know where you are going**
* **Know what you are clicking on**
  + ***Phishing is by far the easiest and most successful way hackers gain access to a network.***

There are a few other basic ideas to keep in mind when working online. You want to be sure you always keep your system clear of vulnerabilities:

* **Clear your Cache, Cookies and Temporary Internet Files**
* **Use Software Daily to Clean Malware and Spyware**
* **Always run Current Anti-Virus Software**
* **Use a Password Keeper to generate strong, unique passwords, Change passwords often for sensitive sites, i.e. Online Banking**
* **Use a Guest Network for less sensitive Internet usage**
* **Use Two-Factor Authentication for sensitive information websites.**

Social Media is a great source of information for hackers. That said, how can you protect yourself while using these sites. Keep in mind:

* **Privacy Setting Come First = Lower Risk**
* **Determine what Personally Identifiable Information (PII) you’re comfortable with sharing on the Internet**
* **Once PII is posted, treat as if it’s already been shared**

**Useful Websites:**

* [**https://haveibeenpwned.com/**](https://haveibeenpwned.com/) **- This site provides a simple interface to check your email or passwords to see if possibly exposed in a “Breach”.**
* [**https://nordpass.com/secure-password**](https://nordpass.com/secure-password) **- This site provides a simple interface to enter a password to provide context to its strength.**
* **https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/ - This site provides many effective resources to protect yourself and businesses.**
* [**https://www.safeandsecureonline.org/s/**](https://www.safeandsecureonline.org/s/) **- This site provides many effective resources to Families practice good internet safety.**

**Identity Theft:**

* **Run Personal Credit Check at least annually.**
* **Consider running Credit Checks on Children; Consider Freezing their credit until needed.**

Finally, keep in mind that your smart phone is as vulnerable as your laptops, desktops, notebooks, tablets, networks, etc. Androids are more vulnerable than iOS. However, it is recommended you run anti-virus on all devices with all operating systems.