

TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY

BROWSING THE INTERNET SAFELY

Browsing generally refers to reading and scanning through data, when done on the Internet it is also called surfing. Browsing or surfing the Internet safely can be difficult. Browsing the Internet safely means leaving as little evidence or personal information as possible behind. Especially information that hackers could use to do you harm. This safety minute will provide you with some recommendations to help reduce your footprint when browsing the Internet.

How to Identify Secure Websites

Before entering sensitive personal or work information on a website be sure to verify the website is secure.

- Look for the padlock icon displayed somewhere in the web browser. This indicates a secure mode between the browser and the server, the communication is encrypted.
- Look for the “https” prefix to the Web address. The “s” indicates a secure, encrypted connection.
- If you encounter a warning about a website’s security certificate, check with your IT department before proceeding.

Identifying Suspicious Websites and Links

Much like the suspicious links and attachments that can be sent via phishing emails, Internet users need to avoid malicious content when browsing online. These links can be disguised in pop-up adds or hidden in clickbait type articles.

- Avoid clickbait, pop-ups and advertisements. While they don’t all contain viruses, this is a very common method of transmitting them.
- Pop-up adds try to get you to click on them by making incredible sounding offers. If it seems too good to be true, it likely is. If you want to seriously check out a product or service offered in a pop-up or clickbait type add, google it and check it out directly, not via the link in the pop-up.
- The same hackers that create the phishing emails are creating the clickbait and pop-up adds. Look at the spelling and grammar, if it is incorrect this could be a clue that it is not legitimate.
- Hover your cursor over links to reveal where the link may be sending you. If it doesn’t seem to match, be wary. It may look similar, like the phishing emails.
- Treat all these interactions (clickbait, pop-ups, advertisements) as less than trustworthy. With phishing and social engineering being so common, a healthy level of distrust is a good thing.
- A link can be hidden within clickbait or a pop-up, you may think you’re closing the pop-up when you are clicking a link to download malware.



TAKE A MINUTE FOR YOUR SAFETY SIGN-IN SHEET

COUNTY/AGENCY: _____

DATE OF TRAINING: _____ PRESENTER: _____

TOPIC(S): _____

Print Name

Signature

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