Week 1

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month!

National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) is a nationwide initiative under the leadership of the Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance. NCSAM is a government and industry collaboration that strives to ensure that all Americans have the resources they need for a safer, more secure online experience.

We lead digital lives that are interconnected by one shared resource – the Internet. The Internet is the one resource with worldwide connections of computers, data, and websites that support almost everything in our daily lives. Cyberspace is the result of the diverse social, political, professional, educational, cultural, and religious usage of the Internet. Our national economic vitality and national security are heavily dependent upon a stable, safe, and resilient cyberspace. Yet we have faced a dramatic increase in cyber attacks during the last decade. These cyber attacks have exposed sensitive personal and business information, disrupted critical operations, and imposed significant high costs on the American economy.

Cyber Security is not the responsibility of one individual, group, industry, or government. It is a shared resource, and therefore its responsibility is shared among all American citizens, businesses, groups, and governmental agencies. Cyber Security is the only mechanism that maximizes our ability to grow commerce, communications, community, and content in our connected world. Yet, Cyber Security begins with our individual Cyber Security awareness and practices. Our individual Cyber Security efforts can collectively make cyberspace more resistant to cyber attacks and more resilient if such attacks occur.

According to staysafeonline.org, Cyber Security begins with the message: STOP. THINK. CONNECT.

STOP: Before you use the Internet, take time to understand the risks and learn how to spot potential problems.

THINK: Take a moment to be certain the path ahead is clear. Watch for warning signs and consider how your actions online could impact your safety, or your family’s safety.

CONNECT: Enjoy the Internet with greater confidence, knowing you’ve taken the right steps to safeguard yourself and your computer.

Check out next week’s password security article!