CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH – OCTOBER 2022

Cybersecurity is a Team Effort

The University is connected to the internet. People on campus enjoy access to the web, services, email and chat, etc. This access is a two-way street, and people and devices on the internet can also access the campus. This allows students and staff to reach services like UWinsite Student from their homes and mobile devices. It also allows anyone else to connect as well, and not everyone on the internet has good intentions.

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The accounts, information and research, and computing resources at the University are of value to hackers, spies and criminals. They look to hack into accounts to gain access to research, to send phishing messages and spam, or to take over computers for crypto mining and botnets.

A Hostile Internet

Unfortunately, the Internet can be a hostile environment. Computers allow bad actors to automate attacks on their victims. These attacks include trying to break into accounts and scanning to find vulnerabilities and other weaknesses to exploit. The campus firewall is the front line of defence against these robotic attacks. A firewall allows desired connections and drops undesired traffic.

Firewall Actions (Aug 23-29)
370.3 Million connections dropped per day (96%)
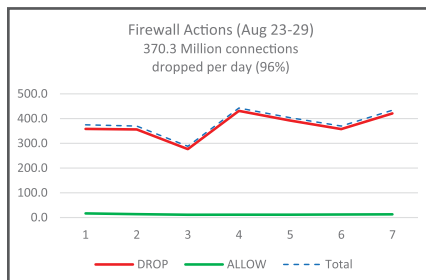
The graph shows our firewall drops over 96% of connections from the Internet as being invalid or prohibited connection attempts.

Multiple Threat Vectors

The security of campus information and computing resources is regularly threatened by many factors using multiple techniques:

- Phishing and spear-phishing attacks
- Malware and ransomware
- Compromised accounts
- Malicious mobile apps
- Theft and loss of equipment

It is important to know that there is a mature, organized industry that is seeking access, information and resources. Campus computer users need to stay aware and report anything unusual to IT Services so it can be checked.

Phishing and Spam

Email is a critical communication tool, but it can be abused. Everyone has seen spam emails and phishing attempts in their Inboxes. Phishing and its more targeted cousin, spear phishing, are attempts to fool recipients of a message to reveal information (such as their username and password) or perform an action on behalf of the phisher. What people don't know is that the spam and phishing attempts that reach their mailbox are only the tip of the iceberg. The campus has multiple anti-spam systems in place that stop the vast majority of unwanted email before it even reaches the recipient.

Anti-spam Email Delivery
Aug 27 - Sep 15
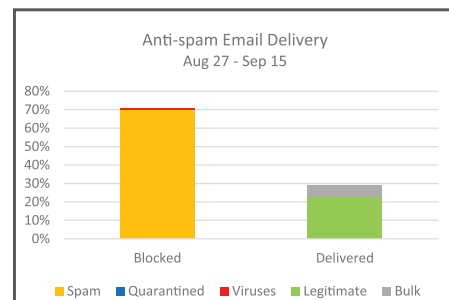
In the last month, more than 70 percent of emails sent to the campus were blocked by our anti-spam systems.

We're here to help!

IT Services is happy to answer questions about cybersecurity on campus: **ext. 4440** or open a ticket for service here: **uwindsor.ca/itshelp**.
More information on cybersecurity issues facing campus: **uwindsor.ca/cybersecurity**