Cybersecurity Awareness Month Tips

This month is cybersecurity awareness month. According to last year's statistics, on average, a hacker will attack every 39 seconds, steal data every 75 seconds, hack 30,000 new websites daily, and/or create 300,000 new malware per day. These are very scary statistics, especially as more and more devices, accounts, and websites connect to the internet. This is why the MCC IT Club would like to bring awareness and present tips on how to stay safe on the internet.

Internet:
- Use a different password for every account you have/create
- Whenever possible, activate two-factor authentication (2fa) and if possible, use the app-based version 2fa over SMS 2fa
- Do not click on any links or attachments you are not 100% sure of or expecting
- Examine the email or URL address. Scammers will often try and mimic legitimate sites or email addresses by using a slight variation in spelling
- Make sure the website is HTTPS secured. This will be the first thing in the URL of an address you will see. You will also see a locked padlock right by the address bar.
- Have a VPN connection on when on public wifi
- Do not access sensitive info on public wifi

Permissions:
- Double check what permissions each application is using and if that app needs that specific permission
- When installing a new application, check what permissions it needs and why they need it. If it makes sense, then give it that permission, if not deny it that permission.
- Location permission. The only app that needs this permission is maps app, every other app DOES NOT need this permission especially not your social media (looking at you Facebook)

Home security:
- Secure your home router
- Change the administrative default settings and password
- Update the firmware
- Make sure your wifi security setting is set to WPA2 (or if your router supports it WPA3)
- Pay attention to what devices are connected to your network and kick off those you do not recognize
- Have a good antivirus software installed on your computer
- Have your firewall on both your devices and router
- Make sure to have a password for your devices
- Backup your data in case you need to restore it if you get infected with malware
- Have some type of remote wipe application installed on your devices in case if it gets stolen.

If you have any questions, stop by MCC IT Lab 219 Thursdays from 11:30am-1:30pm for PC Clinic or join the IT Club the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 3:30 pm in Lab 219 or through Zoom. Email Victor.Perez@iavalley.edu for the Zoom link.