October is Cyberawareness Month!

Setting your clocks forward or back for Daylight Saving Time and replacing the batteries in smoke detectors are rituals repeated every spring and fall. Similarly, the National Cyber Security Alliance established April 4, 2004 and October 31, 2004, as Cyber Security Days to raise awareness about Internet safety and computer security issues (EDUCAUSE, 2004). While colleges and universities across the country planned security education and awareness events to help promote Cyber Security Day, Educational Technology Outreach planned a month's worth of activities to help the K-20 community's awareness of cybersecurity issues and promote safe online practices.

- Educause's Computer and Network Security Task Force hosted a kickoff event on September 30, 2004 [Read the statement]
- Rutgers University is encouraging its students, faculty, and staff to participate in National Cyber Security Month.
- University of Maryland's Project Nethics and OIT promoted "Spring Cleaning: Computers Need It Too!" through print and web based resources and a student awareness event.
- The University of Arizona developed a series of humorous posters to reinforce messages that are designed to prevent identity theft and other consequences of improperly secured computers.
- The Office of Information Technologies at the University of Virginia has published on the topic of developing campus-wide security education and awareness in EDUCAUSE Quarterly [PDF - 57KB] and serves as part of the Virginia Alliance for Secure Computing and Networking (VASCAN) that has compiled a collection of security tools and best practices from Virginia universities.

First held in 2002, the semi-annual National Cyber Security Days are coordinated with daylight savings in April and October in the U.S. and are intended to raise the public's awareness of cybersecurity issues and promote safe online practices. Read on to find out more about National Cyber Security Day:

- Stay Safe Online, National Cyber Security Alliance
- Business Software Alliance
- INFOWorld, By Paul Roberts, IDG News Service, April 05, 2004
- Securityitworld.com, IDG News Service 04/05/2004

While the semi-annual National Cyber Security Days might be a "well kept secret" to some, others like the National Cyber Security Alliance and EDUCAUSE's Security Task Force encourage and support events, activities and programs that observe the Cyber Security Days, as well as all Cyber awareness initiatives.

Educational Technology Outreach feels strongly that 2 days (April 4th and October 31st) are not enough to help the K-20 community's awareness of cybersecurity issues and promote safe online practices. Therefore, in addition to Maryland's Math Month participation, it's time to celebrate and participate in Cyber-awareness month.

A calendar format lists Cyber-awareness activities and resources that can help educators and their students celebrate Cyber-awareness Months in April and October. ETO would like to hear about the great things you do during April and October to promote Cyber-awareness. Schools' participation may be showcased at the ETO website and the C3 Conference.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October is Cyber-Awareness Month! Click on a Day for Activity Details					**1.** Take the self-guided cyber security test	**2.** Use protection software "anti-virus software" and keep it up to date.
3. Don't open email from unknown sources.	**4.** Use hard-to-guess passwords.	**5.** Protect your computer from Internet intruders -- use	**6.** Don't share access to your computers with strangers. Learn	**7.** Disconnect from the Internet when not in use.	**8.** Back up your computer data.	**9.** Regularly download security protection

		"firewalls".	about file sharing risks.			update "patches".
10. Check your security on a regular basis. Reevaluate your computer security.	**11** Make sure your family members and/or your employees know what to do if your computer becomes infected.	**12** Visit Get Netsmartz (best with Netscape) Teaching children what to watch out for when surfing the internet with fun and interactive games- but even adults can learn from this site	**13** Visit the FTC website-offers tips for consumers and businesses on computer security and protecting personal information	**14.** Are you a Safe Cyber Surfer? Take our quiz to find out!	**15.** Learn more about how to protect your computer, your sensitive files and your home network from hackers and viruses by taking some basic precautions Video clips also included	**16**. Visit GetWise to learn more about how to Find, remove and prevent annoying spyware.
17. Visit GetWise to learn how to prevent unwanted email and spam	**18.** Learn about cookies, how they affect your privacy and how you can control them.	**19.** Learn to identify online fraud and prevent it.	**20.** Read the Online Security and Safety Tips Guide- with info from Microsoft	**21.** Learn the Computer Security Jargon	**22.** Cyber Security for the Digital District: Eight Questions A Superintendent Should Ask the Chief Technology Officer: A question and answer guide for school administrators to ensure proper computer system protection	**23.** Learn about DSL or cable connection safety
24. Safeguarding the Wired Schoolhouse	**25.** Test your computer's Security -from Symantec	**26.** Sign-up for National Cyber Alerts and Cyber Security Tips from the Department of Homeland Security	**27.** Learn more about the dangers of using unmonitored chat rooms	**28.** Visit CyberSmart for ideas to try out in class or at home	**29.** Visit Cyberspacers Make sure you try the Q's and A's	**30.** Visit ETO's Cyberethics, security and safety portal. Full of resources for all age groups and all levels.
31. Celebrate National CyberSecurity Day						

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