



2023/5783 High Holiday Cyber Security Checklist

What is Cyber Security? A set of principles and practices designed to safeguard your computing assets and online information against threats.

Why is Cyber Security important? Studies consistently show that 85–95% of cyber security incidents/data breaches are attributable to “end users” or human error. As individuals and organizations, we have a critical role to play in the security of our data, personal information and systems.

Cyber Security Checklist

Account Security

- Use complex passwords for each account and ensure you do not use the same password for multiple accounts. A strong password has:
 - Both upper- and lower-case letters
 - Uses symbols and numbers
 - A large number of characters—preferably 18 or more
 - No ties to personal information such as your birthdate or the street you grew up on
- Use a password manager rather than writing down passwords to help you remember them
- Be wary of suspicious emails
 - If you receive an email from an unknown person:
 - Do not open
 - If opened, do not open any files or click any links
 - Report it to your IT Department, if applicable
 - If you receive what appears to be a legitimate, but unexpected request for personal information, contact the person or the company through a verified customer service phone number to confirm
- Enable multi-factor authentication on your accounts

Organizational Cyber Hygiene

- Back up important files on either an external storage device or a secure, cloud-based platform
- Encrypt your phone, computer, and external hard drives
- Protect devices from malware
- Password protect all devices
- Ensure your devices’ operating systems and all software is up to date. When possible, enable auto update.
- Avoid sending personal information over public Wi-Fi networks unless you are absolutely certain they are secure
- Avoid sharing personal information on social media and check your privacy settings to ensure your accounts are not public
- Keep an inventory of hardware and software on the company network
- Develop a software installation process for staff and network users such as limiting installation privileges
- Limit the numbers of users with administrative privileges



Safe Surfing

- Check the prefix of the web address. “https” means that the website is secure whereas “http” means that it is an unsecure website. Only share data on secure websites.
- Check the address bar for a “locked padlock” symbol. This will also indicate that the website is secure.

Organizational Social Media Security

- Create a Social Media Policy
 - Create rules related to confidentiality and personal social media use
 - Identify which team members are responsible for each social media account
 - Create guidelines related to confidentiality and copyright
 - Create guidelines on how to create an effective password and how often to change passwords
 - Create guidelines for keeping software and devices updated
 - Create an action plan that identifies who to notify if a social media concern arises
- Train your staff on social media security issues
 - Create a system of approvals for social media posts
 - Put someone in charge of social media. The responsibilities of this person include:
 - “Owning” the organization’s social media policy
 - Monitoring your organization’s social media presence
 - Determining who has publishing access
 - Participating as a key player in development of your marketing while considering security best practices

Safe Online Video Conference Practices

- Zoom Platform
 - Consider hosting your event as a webinar, rather than traditional meeting
 - Avoid Using the Personal Meeting ID (PMI). Instead, use a new, randomly generated meeting ID.
 - Always password protect your meetings

- Use the waiting room function
- Ensure you have unchecked the box that allows participants to join before host
- Designate a co-host to help facilitate the meeting
- During the Meeting
 - Confirm identities of all participants prior to granting them access to the meeting
 - Limit who can share files and their screen with the meeting participants
 - Mute and/or disable the video of any disruptive participant(s)
 - Hit record during any security incidents. This could be valuable information to law enforcement partners.
 - Remove disruptive participants from the meeting

Personal Cyber Security/Digital Breadcrumbs

- Do not name WiFi networks after family/household names
- Change manufacturer or platform provided passwords after activation
- Log out and keep your computer locked while leaving it unattended
- Never insert USB flash drives/devices with unknown origins into your computer
- Be considerate of the information you give out online. Posting information about your current location, address or routine can leave you vulnerable.
- Look into the privacy settings of applications and the websites you visit to see what and how information is collected from you

Special Considerations for Kids

- Talk with your kids about safe online practices. You should inform your kids to:
 - Never share personal information such as your home address, school you attend or your phone number
 - Never interact with someone they do not know
 - If asked for personal information or photos, they should contact an adult immediately
- Kids should never download anything without an adult’s permission