



National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

The 15th annual National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM) will highlight user awareness among consumers, students/academia and business. NCSAM 2018 will address specific challenges and identify opportunities for behavioral change. It will also remind everyone that protecting the internet is “Our Shared Responsibility.” In addition, NCSAM 2018 will shine a spotlight on the critical need to build a strong, cyber secure workforce to help ensure families, communities, businesses and the country’s infrastructure are better protected.

More information at: <https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam/>

The line between our online and offline lives is indistinguishable. In these tech-fueled times, our homes, societal well-being, economic prosperity and nation’s security are impacted by the internet.

Week 1: October 1—5: Make Your Home a Haven for Online Safety

Every day, parents and caregivers teach kids basic safety practices – like looking both ways before crossing the street and holding an adult’s hand in a crowded place. Easy-to-learn life lessons for online safety and privacy begin with parents leading the way. Learning good cybersecurity practices can also help set a strong foundation for a career in the industry. With family members using the internet to engage in social media, adjust the home thermostat or shop for the latest connected toy, it is vital to make certain that the entire household – including children – learn to use the internet safely and responsibly and that networks and mobile devices are secure.

Week 1 underscores basic cybersecurity essentials the entire family can deploy to protect their homes against cyber threats.

Week 2: October 8–12: Millions of Rewarding Jobs: Educating for a Career in Cybersecurity

A key risk to our economy and security continues to be the shortage of cybersecurity professionals to safeguard our ever-expanding cyber ecosystem. Raising the next generation of interested and capable cybersecurity professionals is a starting point to building stronger defenses. There are limitless opportunities to educate students of all ages – from high school into higher education and beyond – on the field of cybersecurity as they consider their options. In addition, veterans and individuals who are looking for a new career or re-entering the workforce, should explore the multitude of well-paying and rewarding jobs available.

Week 2 addresses ways to motivate parents, teachers and counselors to learn more about the field and how to best inspire students and others to seek highly fulfilling cybersecurity careers.

Week 3: October 15–19: It's Everyone's Job to Ensure Online Safety at Work

When you are on the job – whether it's at a corporate office, local restaurant, healthcare provider, academic institution or government agency – your organization's online safety and security are a responsibility we all share. And, as the lines between our work and daily lives become increasingly blurred, it is more important than ever to be certain that smart cybersecurity carries over between the two.

Week 3 focuses on cybersecurity workforce education, training and awareness while emphasizing risk management, resistance and resilience. NCSA's CyberSecure My Business™ will shed light on how small and medium-sized businesses can protect themselves, their employees and their customers against the most prevalent threats.

Week 4: October 22–26: Safeguarding the Nation's Critical Infrastructure

Our day-to-day life depends on the country's 16 sectors of critical infrastructure, which supply food, water, financial services, public health, communications and power along with other networks and systems. A disruption to this system, which is operated via the internet, can have significant and even catastrophic consequences for our nation.

Week 4 emphasizes the importance of securing our critical infrastructure and highlight the roles the public can play in keeping it safe. In addition, it will lead the transition into November's Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month, which is spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.