



The DoIT Digest

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This Week:

- October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month
- “Phish and Tips”
- How to Report Phishing



October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM)

Governor Bruce Rauner proclaimed October as Cyber Security Awareness Month in Illinois and we once again join the national effort of remaining vigilant in an increasingly accessible, yet precarious digital world. Together we can combat one of our most threatening national security dangers.

NCSAM dates back to 2003 in the United States and was a collaboration between the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance; both organizations offer a wealth of knowledge in digital safety. More details can be found in this week’s press release.

“Phish and Tips”

Phishing, often is confused with “smishing” or “vishing” and refers to a malicious attempt to obtain sensitive information. Email, websites and telephone calls are the most frequently used tools to obtain this information. When text messaging is used, it is known as “smishing” and when the telephone is used it is “vishing”. When a broader “phishing” attempt becomes more targeted or executive level in audience, it is referred to as “whaling”. The intent is the same, the methods differ. Effective phishing attempts often fabricate time sensitivity to encourage a quick response, so that the targeted victim doesn’t take time to think through the request for information. For additional helpful tips, consult the MS-ISAC page on phishing.



How to Report Phishing

The most efficient method to report and resolve a phishing attempt is to send the suspicious email as soon as is practical to DoIT.Security@illinois.gov. Our Security Operations Center (SOC) team will take it from there. In the meantime, do not respond and do not click on any links. If you have already clicked on the link, report it the same way or contact the DoIT Service Desk at 217.524.DoIT or 312.814.DoIT immediately. Stopping the potential problem before it becomes a

widespread incident is most important. It can innocently happen. An alternative method of reporting is to use the Phish Alert tool at the top of your email inbox. This is less effective, however, in a real-time situation when the information has already been divulged or the link has been opened.

DoIT FYIs and Reminders



The State and University Employees Combined Appeal (SECA) Campaign is in full swing and runs through the end of October. If you wish to learn more about the opportunities to contribute to any number of charities supporting our communities, please link to a communication from our Acting Secretary, Kirk Lonbom or contact our DoIT SECA Ambassador, Vickey.Longstaff@illinois.gov. If you are not fully transferred to DoIT, your legacy agency also has as SECA ambassador who can answer questions.