DataGrams

Proven, Field-Tested Network Security Strategies To Help Our Clients Make Confident, Real-Time Cybersecurity Decisions.

Happy Thanksgiving!

...from our family to yours.
We are thankful to have clients like you, not just on Thanksgiving, but all the year through.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

GOOGLE WOULD LIKE PERMISSION TO USE YOUR LOCATION.

Unwrapping Cyberthreats: Stay Secure During The Holiday Shopping Frenzy

Ho, ho, ho, Cyber Warriors! It's that time of year again when jingle bells and cyber alarms ring. The holiday shopping season is upon us, and with it come the newest cyber threats, and sadly, Amazon isn't immune. So, grab a mug of your favorite festive brew, pull up a cozy chair, and let's unwrap the latest hacking news and learn how to protect your online presence this season.

The Amazon Alarm

First, let's address the big, jolly elephant in the room: Amazon. The e-commerce giant is a target that cybercriminals just can't resist. Recent reports have shown an uptick in Amazon-related phishing scams and fraudulent seller accounts. Scammers are getting sneakier, mimicking Amazon's official communications, luring unsuspecting shoppers into clicking on malicious links or downloading dangerous files. They may promise deals that turn out to be nothing but cyber traps.

Scammy Santas

But it's not just Amazon in the hot seat. Scammy Santas are all over the internet, posing as legitimate retailers with enticing offers. Be wary of unsolicited emails, shady websites, and too-good-to-be-true discounts. Scammers are hoping to catch you off guard during the busy holiday rush.

Defend Your Cyber Sleigh
So, how do you defend your digital sleigh and protect your personal information?

Here are some tips to keep those cyber grinches at bay:

1. **Stay Vigilant**

Be on the lookout for suspicious emails, especially those that ask for personal or financial information. Legitimate retailers won't ask for your sensitive data via email.

2. **Shop Smart**

Stick to well-known, reputable retailers, and double-check web addresses to ensure you're on the real site. Avoid clicking "sponsored ads" in Google or anywhere else.

3. **Use Strong Passwords**

Update and strengthen your passwords. Consider using a passphrase with a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters.

4. **Enable Two-Factor Authentication**

Add an extra layer of protection by enabling two-factor authentication on your online shopping accounts.

Sign Up For Our **Weekly IT Security Tips**
to receive timely, relevant cybersecurity tips and news via email every Tuesday morning, AND critical cyber news as it happens.

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This monthly publication provided courtesy of Richard Frielink, Founder & President of Data-Link Associates

Our Mission

To provide IT solutions and services that allow our clients to succeed in an ever changing and challenging business environment.

Richard C. Frielink

Coming up in the next issue:

♦ **The Danger In Denying A Bank Fraud Alert**

♦ **2023: The Year In Cybersecurity, Looking to 2024**

5. Beware of Public Wi-Fi

Avoid making online purchases when connected to public Wi-Fi network, as they may be less secure.

6. Stay Informed

Keep up-to-date with the latest cyber threats and follow the news to stay informed about ongoing scams and tactics. If you would like pertinent cyber news delivered directly to your feeds, page 4 has QR codes to Data-Link's socials.

'Tis the Season for Cyber Vigilance

As we gather 'round our digital hearths, let's remember that 'tis the season for cyber vigilance. Stay frosty, dear readers, and protect your online presence as you navigate the holiday shopping frenzy. Cyber threats are real, but with the right knowledge and tools, you can outsmart the cyber grinches and enjoy a safe, secure, and joyful holiday season.

Wishing you and yours a merry, cyber-secure holiday!

The 5 Laws of Cybersecurity

Compliance with these unofficial laws doesn't necessarily equal security, but keeping these general guidelines in mind is a very good start toward developing a robust security program:

1. Treat everything like it's vulnerable.
2. Assume people won't follow the rules.
3. If you don't need it, get rid of it.
4. Document everything and audit regularly.
5. Plan for failure.

Cybersecurity is a complicated field, and any way to simplify its many facets into short, easy-to-remember maxims is always welcome.

CRAN You Believe it? - Ocean Spray's Poll

73% of Americans prefer their cranberry sauce jellied, in the shape of a can.

400 million pounds of cranberries are consumed by Americans each year.

The average number of cranberries used per can is 200.

How do you like your cranberry sauce?
DLA Staff poll results: 50% prefer homemade, 38% like jellied, 6% enjoy it both ways and 6% don't like cranberry sauce at all.

CYBERSECURITY HEROES
Defenders of the Digital World

We know your network like the backs of our hands. It's time you got to know the cybersecurity heroes that keep your network secure, day-in-day-out.

Meet our Team Leads!

Richard "The Boss" Frielink: Wrote the book on doing the right thing. He's a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, former air traffic controller and computer science educator. Founded DLA in 1983.

Andy "The Phenom" Frielink: Started working for the company at 14 years old. Master programmer and most senior technical resource for the company.

Adam "The Human Firewall" Frielink: Key holder and maintenance man for your first line of defense.

Mike "The Policeman" Lamczyk: Our Windows pro, Mike's team configures and deploys security patches and investigates vulnerabilities.

Brian "The Bouncer" Phillips: No one gets in unless Brian's team approves the application with our zero-trust network solution.

Angela "The Hub" Jamerson: Angela puts a refreshing spin on the Director Of Operations role by adding her cybersecurity knowledge and brand of symmetrical process to the company.

Pam "Cyber Wingman" Birchfield: Pam educates our clients and prospective clients in all things cybersecurity. Author of DataGrams, Tuesday Tech Tips, and the company's social media.

In this season, we would like to send a special thank you to our 20+ year clients for your trust and loyalty all these years.

Tor : Secrets of the Dark Web
The Tor Project logo

If you think the "dark web" is an internet underground where only hackers and other baddies communicate to sell credit card numbers and stolen kidneys, you may be surprised to find out some of these secrets of the dark web:

The dark web routes traffic over the network with layers of encryption to preserve anonymity of its users. The dark web is not accessible to the common internet surfer. It requires a specific browser called, Tor.

The core principles for Tor, short for The Onion Router, was developed by employees of the U.S. government and the Naval Research Lab. It is a free, open-source software for enabling anonymous communication.
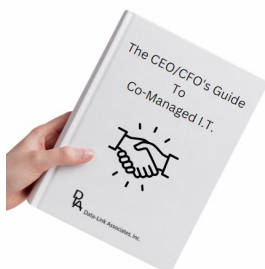
Spy agencies have long been at home on the dark web. Tor was developed with U.S. intelligence in mind "for the primary purpose of protecting government communications."

Similar to the standardization of https as a more secure configuration than http, Tor believes that onion services are the next step in securing the web and they very well may be.

Unsafe use of Tor can result in severe privacy leaks or issues with your online safety. We do not recommend use of Tor for the average user.

HACKED

5 major U.S. Airports suffered distributed denial-of-service attacks (DDoS)—a type of attack that utilizes multiple machines operating together typically to target a country's public service like transportation or utilities to paralyze operations.
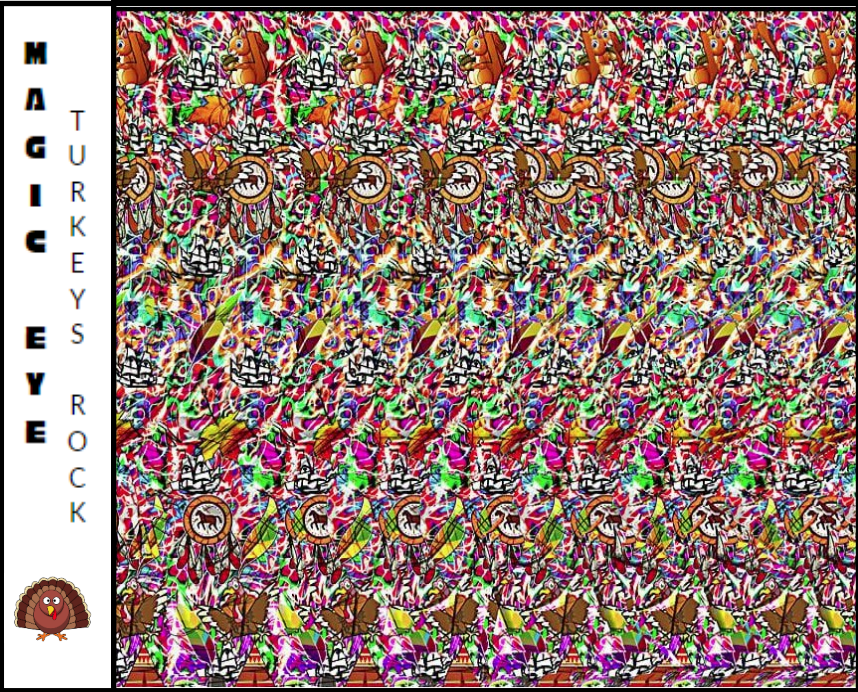
LGA LAGUARDIA AIRPORT

O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PHX PHOENIX SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport®

■ **Be wary of multiple MFA requests.** Cybercriminals will continuously push the authentication notification to your email or phone hoping you will eventually tire of denying the request and click "accept" to let them in.

■ **Malvertising– ads with malware- is everywhere.** Take extreme caution when clicking on any ad, including the 'sponsored' ads in a Google search. Most company URLs are easy to guess: company name + .com. Instead, typing the URL into the browser address bar up top is a more secure way to get to any destination.

■ **Donate safely in response to the Israel-Gaza crisis.** Head to https://lnkd.in/eV5PF6py for tips to avoid the many scams popping up.

■ **$4.4M in crypto stolen from 25 people on October 25th.** If you believe you have ever stored your crypto seed phrase or keys in LastPass password manager, you'll want to migrate your assets immediately. LastPass was breached in 2022 and hackers used the stolen data for this theft.

■ **Malicious 'Smart Links' plague marketing and sales teams; put networks at risk.** Head to https://lnkd.in/ghFCGpra for more information.

MAGIC EYE

TURKEYS ROCK

The pop-culture phenomenon from the 90s is here for Thanksgiving!

Viewing tips for Magic Eye: Hold the image up to your nose then slowly move it away from your face, focusing your eyes on the background. Crossing your eyes first or un-focusing your eyes helps too.

Referrals to Data-Link
The Why, the Who and the How

Why: Cybersecurity isn't just about keeping YOUR network secure, it's making sure the people you deal with— vendors, clients, prospects—are adequately protected as well.

By minimizing the chance your staff will unwittingly open the next ransomware attachment, you gain an upper-hand against cyberthreats.

Whether with us or another expert cybersecurity team, it is imperative that you make sure the people in your circle are taking cybersecurity as seriously as you do.

Who: When vetting vendors, clients and even your prospects, you'll want to do a bit of research on past breaches.

Large company breaches will show up on Google and you can even scan their email address on haveibeenpwned.com to see if their credentials have been involved in a data breach.

How: Give them Angela Jamerson's contact info and be sure they give you credit for referring them to us!

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Meet Us On Socials!

for trusted daily cyber news and happenings in your feed