



InfoBytes

Technology Services Division of Student Affairs

Computer Security isn't just for Techies

By Amy Armstrong



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As part of its efforts to secure the University community's technology systems, the Information Technology Security Services office (ITSS) has created a set of short documents which were written for the average computer user. They range from securing your home wireless network to managing your passwords. We encourage everyone to go to their website at <http://safecomputing.umich.edu> and click on the Security Shorts icon on the left side.

They are clearly written with simple step-by-step instructions that the average user can follow, and they really do provide useful information.

IT Security Services: Privacy Matters Campaign

By Maria Laitan

The Privacy Matters campaign is designed to educate staff and faculty on the secure handling of data. The campaign has 3 components: website, brochures and posters.

The website, <http://safecomputing.umich.edu>, contains information on managing personal and private information. You will likely see the posters around campus and at both CIC desks. The 5 categories represented on the posters and brochures are Protect IT, Secure IT, Delete IT, Shred IT and Destroy IT.


The goal is to raise awareness and encourage better practices through education.

Special points of interest:

- New Survey Software
- Secure passwords
- New CIC Logo
- Leprechauns

StudentVoice for Surveys

By Maria Laitan



StudentVoice offers web surveys, as well as, surveys by PDA.

Does your department have a survey to publish? The Division of Student Affairs has obtained a license for StudentVoice, which is one of the country's leading assessment providers to higher education professionals.

StudentVoice offers web surveys, as well as, surveys by PDA. Surveys by PDA involve setting up a table and stopping people as they walk by.

It's simple to get your survey created by StudentVoice. To start, a document containing your survey criteria needs to be sent to Malinda Matney in Student Affairs Research. Another option is to log on to <http://studentvoice.com/>, using your user id. To obtain a user id contact Malinda Matney.

From there the survey will be created and data will be stored. Reports can be exported to Microsoft Excel or Word, but the software itself can also be used to create a report.

Because of the convenience StudentVoice provides, Technology Services will be referring requests for surveys to the StudentVoice process.

Is your password safe?

By Maria Laitan



Recently, ITSS ran a program that was able to crack at least 10% of passwords used by the University staff. When was the last time you changed your password?

It is recommended that your Kerberos password be at least 9 characters long and not the same as other passwords you use for hotmail or PIN numbers. The best passwords are made up. ITCS uses "dyktwtSJoUS12" (Do you know the way to San Jose on US-12) as an example. The best passwords are made up and are changed every 6 months. For more information on choosing a secure password visit <http://www.itd.umich.edu/itcsdocs/r1162/>.

CIC Logos: Past & Present

By Amy Watson



CIC bids "farewell" to old logo

Last summer Technology Services and CIC sat down together to talk about updating the CIC website. In the midst of deliberating the best location for a search box and whether we should use tabs or pictures to organize our categories, the CIC logo came into question...

Although there is nothing wrong with the old logo (other than some of us thought it looked like a spider's web) it was time to freshen up our look.

With the assistance of the Graphic Design office our logo now appears more modern.

The "i" with a circle around it labels us as "Information Targets" and our name says it all. This new logo will begin replacing the old one on all advertising and materials, and when it's done, the new website.



TADA: CIC's New logo makes it debut

Daylight Savings = Energy Savings = Tech Headache?

By Maria Laitan

Wishing for more daylight in the evening hours during the spring? Well your wish has been granted...

In 2005, Congress decided to extend daylight savings time by 3 weeks in spring and 1 in fall. The reasoning behind the longer daylight in the evening is thought to reduce energy use.

This change of an hour on the old date, the first Sunday in April, and not on the new date, the second Sunday in March could cause trouble with software set to automatically advance its clock. This move could affect more than just calendar applications. The travel industry could see problems with incorrect arrival and departure times, banks could see errors in bank transactions-causing late payments as well as cell phone companies charging peak minutes for off peak.

Here at the University, ITCS is installing patches to try and catch problems before they arise, but it's not always that easy. It is recommended that you print a copy of your calendar from March 11-April 1 prior to daylight savings time, as the patches may not fix all problems.

****DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR HOME COMPUTER****



Daylights Savings begins March 11th

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Irish Leprechaun Legend

The Leprechaun is an Irish fairy. He looks like a small, old man (about 2 feet tall), often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and a leather apron. According to legend, leprechauns are aloof and unfriendly, live alone, and pass the time making shoes. They also possess a hidden pot of gold. Treasure hunters can often track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If caught, he can be forced (with the threat of bodily violence) to reveal the whereabouts of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him every second. If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun (and he often tricks them into looking away), he vanishes and all hopes of finding the treasure are lost.

**Near a misty stream in Ireland in the hollow of a tree
Live mystical, magical leprechauns
who are clever as can be**

**With their pointed ears, and turned up toes and little coats of green
The leprechauns busily make their shoes and try hard not to be seen.
Only those who really believe have seen these little elves
And if we are all believers
We can surely see for ourselves.
(Irish Blessing)**

<http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/shamrock.htm>



Ireland's Blarney Stone

**There is a stone
there,
That whoever
kisses,
Oh, he never
misses
To grow eloquent.
'Tis he may
clamber
To a lady's
chamber,
Or become a
member
Of Parliament.**

**-Francis Sylvester
Mahony**

The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence (blarney). The castle was built in 1446 by Cormac Laidhiv McCarthy (Lord of Muskerry) -- its walls are 18 feet thick

(necessary to thwart attacks by Cromwellians and William III's troops). Thousands of tourists a year still visit the castle. The origins of the Blarney Stone's magical properties aren't clear, but one legend says that an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning. Kissing the

stone while under the spell gave the king the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly. It's tough to reach the stone -- it's between the main castle wall and the parapet. Kissers have to stretch to their back and bend backward (and downward), holding iron bars for support.

http://www.sacredsites.com/europe/ireland/blarney_stone.html

<http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/shamrock.htm>