



Welcome to the TXDPS Cyber Security Newsletter

One big thing: It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!



Why it matters: Since 2004, October has been recognized as Cybersecurity Awareness Month. What started as a national campaign to build awareness has grown into a worldwide reminder that technology is part of our everyday lives – and that security should be too.

What to know:

- It's not just about work. Most online risks show up at home first – in streaming accounts, shopping sites, social media, or family devices.
- This month is a good excuse to pause and check your own digital habits. Do your passwords look different from one another? Are your apps up to date? Do you know what your kids or loved ones are clicking on?
- The more comfortable you are practicing safe habits at home, the easier and more natural it becomes to carry that same awareness into the workplace.

The bottom line: Cyber Security Awareness Month isn't another task to complete – it's an opportunity to build confidence that you can navigate technology safely in all parts of life. Cybersecurity doesn't need to be complicated or overwhelming; it's about a series of small, thoughtful choices that protect what matters most, from your personal bank account to the data handled at your job.

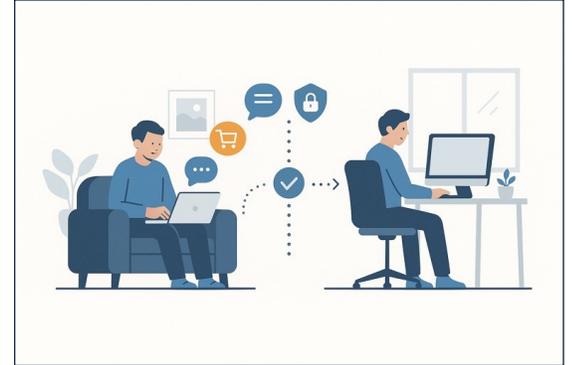
Let's make cybersecurity something we practice daily, not just something we hear about once a year.

Cybersecurity Culture

Cybersecurity can feel like something only “tech people” need to worry about at work – but really, it’s a big part of everybody’s everyday life.

Think about how often you:

- Shop online.
- Get texts from unknown numbers.
- Store personal photos and financial info on your phone.



The same instincts that keep your family safe – being cautious, paying attention, protecting what matters – are exactly what build a strong cybersecurity culture at work, too.

When we treat cybersecurity like buckling a seatbelt or locking the front door, it becomes second nature. And when enough people do that, it stops being “training” and starts being *culture*.

And that’s how culture is built: not with one big action, but through consistent, mindful habits that add up over time.

Here are a few ways you can help bring cyber security into daily life:

- **Pause before you click.** If something feels off – a link, a pop-up, or an unexpected message – trust your instincts.
- **Separate work and personal.** Keep your work accounts and devices focused on business, and use personal accounts for everything else.
- **Update often.** Whether it’s your phone at home or your laptop at work, those updates close the doors attackers try to sneak through.
- **Talk about it.** Share safe browsing tips or stories with coworkers, friends, or family. Security grows stronger when it’s part of the conversation.
- **Think long-term.** A quick shortcut (like reusing a password) might feel convenient today but can lead to major risks tomorrow.

Building cybersecurity culture isn’t about perfection – it’s about awareness. Every small step you take strengthens not just your own protection, but the security of everyone around you - whether that be in your neighborhood or in your office.

In the News

'Widespread' breach let hackers steal employee data from FEMA and CBP

(David DiMolfetta | September 29, 2025)

"A Citrix vulnerability – suspected to have led to firings of multiple FEMA technology staff – enabled the breach, which let hackers pilfer data from FEMA servers connected to states at the southern border."



"A 'widespread cybersecurity incident' at the Federal Emergency Management Agency allowed hackers to make off with employee data from both the disaster management office and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, according to a screenshot of an incident overview presentation obtained by Nextgov/FCW.

The hack is also suspected to have later triggered the dismissal of two dozen Federal Emergency Management Agency technology employees announced late last month, according to internal meeting notes and a person familiar with the matter.

The initial compromise began June 22, when hackers accessed Citrix virtual desktop infrastructure inside FEMA using compromised login credentials. Data was exfiltrated from Region 6 servers, the image says. That FEMA region services Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, as well as nearly 70 tribal nations.

Some of those states sit on the nation's southern border. That region has long been a flashpoint in the Trump administration immigration policies, which have emphasized shoring up funding and resources for CBP."

Full Story: <https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2025/09/widespread-breach-let-hackers-steal-employee-data-fema-and-cbp/408456>

A Few More Cyber News Stories:

Hackers reportedly steal pictures of 8,000 children from Kido nursery chain

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/sep/25/cybercriminals-steal-pictures-and-details-of-8000-children-from-nursery-chain>

New attack on ChatGPT research agent pilfers secrets from Gmail inboxes

<https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2025/09/new-attack-on-chatgpt-research-agent-pilfers-secrets-from-gmail-inboxes>

Cyberattacks against schools driven by a rise in student hackers, ICO warns

<https://therecord.media/cyberattacks-against-schools-driven-by-student-hackers>

This Month's Challenge

For this month's challenge, let's play a quick mini-game based on the gameshow "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" (Anybody remember that one? Is that your final answer?)

Good luck!

<https://globallearningsystems.com/freecontent/WhoWantsToBeCyberSecure/story.html>

