



Connection

April 2024

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 - Cyber Security Training
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ONLINE SECURITY: ADDRESSING THE DANGERS OF BROWSER EXTENSIONS

Browser extensions have become as common as mobile apps. People tend to download many and use few. These extensions offer users extra functionalities and customization options.

• Outdated or Abandoned Extensions
Extensions that are no longer maintained or updated pose a significant security risk. Outdated extensions may have unresolved vulnerabilities.

While browser extensions enhance the browsing experience, they also pose a danger which can mean significant risks to online security and privacy.

• Phishing and Social Engineering
Some malicious extensions engage in phishing attacks. These attacks can trick users into divulging sensitive information.

Key Risks Posed by Browser Extensions

• Privacy Intrusions

Many browser extensions request broad permissions. If abused, they can compromise user privacy. Some of these include accessing browsing history and monitoring keystrokes.

• Malicious Intent

There are many extensions developed with genuine intentions. But some extensions harbor malicious code. This code can exploit users for financial gain or other malicious purposes.

Mitigating the Risks: Best Practices for Browser Extension Security

- ◆ Stick to official marketplaces.
- ◆ Review permissions carefully.
- ◆ Keep extensions updated.
- ◆ Limit the # of extensions you install.
- ◆ Use security software.
- ◆ Educate Yourself.
- ◆ Report Suspicious Extensions.
- ◆ Regularly audit your extensions.

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How to Prevent 'Porch Pirates' from Stealing Your Packages



Are you familiar with the term “Porch Pirates”?

You really need to be if you shop online!

Porch pirates are thieves who walk, bike or drive through residential neighborhoods checking all the front porches for packages that have been delivered but not yet retrieved by their recipients. If they happen to spot a package sitting on someone’s porch they’ll sneak over and grab it, then hurry away from the scene as quickly as possible.

Believe it or not, porch piracy is a big deal in today’s world.

Unfortunately, “porch pirates” are operating in most towns and virtually every city in America, and some of them even make their living by selling the goods they pilfer from their victims’ porches. With millions of consumers shopping at Amazon, Walmart.com and other online venues, the thieves are virtually guaranteed to find at least one package sitting on a porch in most any residential neighborhood they choose to target!

However, there are several things you can do to prevent it from happening to you:

1. If possible, have your packages delivered to your workplace instead of your home.

Many companies have mail rooms that can accept your packages on your behalf. They will then either deliver them right to your office or work location or allow you to stop by and pick them up. Smaller companies that don’t have a mail room still receive mail and package deliveries every weekday. Chances are your employer will gladly accept your package deliveries along with their own deliveries.

2. Have your packages delivered to a trusted friend or relative’s home instead of yours.

If someone you know well and trust is usually at home during the day you can have your packages delivered to their home where they can pick them up and take them inside where they’ll be safe. Chances are you have a great friend or family member who would gladly do it for you (especially if you offer them a few bucks for their trouble).

3. If you receive lots of packages it might be worth the trouble and expense to rent a post office box just to receive your packages. That way you’ll be able to pick them up at your leisure.

Just be aware that some online retailers won't deliver to a PO box, only a street address. If you order from one of those companies having a box at the post office won't help you. All is not lost, however... If your local area has a UPS Store you can rent a mailbox from them instead.

The UPS Store will rent you a mailbox that works exactly like a PO box at the post office. The main difference is you'll be given a street address instead of a PO box address. What's more, the UPS Store will accept your packages on your behalf and store them in a secure location until you get a chance to drop by and pick them up. They'll even send you a text message or email letting you know that your package has been delivered!

4. If your family receives a lot of packages, it might well be worthwhile to invest in a package delivery box.

There are many types and designs to choose from and they're very effective at preventing the theft of deliveries that cannot be retrieved right away. They are also quite affordable!



Truth be told, some porch pirates are brazen enough to steal packages from porches even when they know that the recipients are at home! They simply sneak onto the porch, grab the package, and run.

While it's difficult to prevent the most brazen thieves from taking off with your packages, there are some things you can do to reduce the risk:

1. Check the tracking info for each of your deliveries so you'll know when a package is supposed to arrive. Most carriers will change the status to "Out For Delivery" as soon as the package is loaded onto the truck for delivery to your home.

If at all possible, **arrange your schedule** so that you'll be home when the package arrives.

2. Ask your neighbors to give you a call if they happen to see a package sitting on your porch.

3. If a thief does happen to on your porch your chances of catching him/her will be a lot greater with a WiFi Security Camera keeping lookout on your behalf. These cameras work well and they are quite affordable!

Bottom line: Porch Pirates steal millions of dollars' worth of merchandise every year, and the problem is growing by the day. The tips mentioned in this article can help prevent you from becoming a victim!

DID YOU KNOW...

You can snooze your emails?



Our inboxes can be relentless.

Sometimes an email pings through that you don't have time to deal with, but you don't want to forget about either.

Instead of marking it as unread and leaving it to get lost amongst the scores of junk, if you use Outlook you can snooze it instead. That means it pops back to the top of your inbox at a time that's more convenient.

Simply right
click the email,
click Snooze,
and set a time.

Done!

How can a data breach cost your business for years?

The repercussions of a data breach extend far beyond the immediate aftermath.

They often haunt businesses for years. Only **51%** of data breach costs occur within the first year of an incident. The other **49%** happen in year two and beyond.



Introduction to the First American Title Insurance Co. Case -

The 2019 cybersecurity breach at First American serves as a stark illustration. It reminds us of the **far-reaching consequences** of a data breach. In this case, the New York Department of Financial Services (NYDFS) imposed a **\$1 million fine**. Cybersecurity sites announced the fine in the fall of 2023. The company's fine was for **failing to safeguard sensitive consumer information**. This is one example of how costs can come long after an initial breach.

Lingering Impacts of a Data Breach:

• Financial Repercussions

The financial toll of a data breach is significant.

Immediate costs include things like:

- Breach detection
- Containment
- Customer notification

Beyond those, businesses face long-term expenses. These relate to legal battles, regulatory fines, and reparations.

• Reputation Damage

The impact on a business's reputation is arguably the most enduring consequence. Customers lose trust in a company's ability to protect their sensitive information. This loss of trust can result in a decline in customer retention. As well as acquisition difficulties and long-lasting damage to the brand image.

• Regulatory Scrutiny

Regulatory bodies increasingly hold businesses accountable for safeguarding consumer data. A data breach triggers regulatory scrutiny. This may lead to fines and ongoing compliance requirements.

The aftermath of a data breach disrupts normal business operations. Companies must take remediation efforts and put in place enhanced security measures. These can divert resources away from core business functions.

• Customer Churn and Acquisition Challenges

A data breach often leads to customer churn. Individuals lose confidence in the business's ability to protect their data. Acquiring new customers becomes challenging. Potential clients are wary of associating with a brand that has suffered a breach. The prolonged effects on customer acquisition can hinder the company's growth as well as its market competitiveness.

A Cautionary Tale for Businesses Everywhere!

The repercussions of a data breach extend **far beyond** the immediate incident. They can impact the financial health and reputation of a business for years as well as its regulatory standing.

Be on guard!



It's time to fix your **RISKY** password habits!

We all know how important it is to keep our data safe, but sometimes our best intentions fall short. And when you have employees, you're at an increased risk of security threats and bad habits creeping in.

Here's the deal: Even if you invest in cyber security training, changing long held password habits can be a tough nut to crack. People love convenience, and remembering a ton of complex passwords just isn't their idea of a good time.

Your employees are juggling dozens of passwords for work and personal use. It's a lot to handle, and sometimes they slip up and reuse passwords across different accounts. It's a familiar story, right? And it's where the trouble starts.

When passwords are reused, it's like leaving the front door wide open for cyber criminals. If the password is breached on one site, they will try it to access other sites.



Here's how you can make sure your team stays on top of their password game.

Password audit: Ask your IT partner to do an audit of passwords and look for weak ones that should be changed.

Block weak passwords: Ask your IT partner to implement a password policy that stops common passwords from being used.

Scan for compromised passwords: Even strong passwords can be compromised. Stay one step ahead by scanning for breached passwords and prompting employees to change them.

Use password managers: Password managers securely generate then store a unique password for every different account... and fill them into the login box so your team won't have to.

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA): Add an extra layer of security with MFA, where you get a code on a separate device. It's like putting a deadbolt on your front door – double the protection, double the peace of mind.

With the right tools and guidance, password security doesn't have to be hard work.

If we can help you with that, get in touch.



Call us!

(703) 968-2600

Your phone or PCs microphone and speaker can be a little limited. **Especially if you're using it for a conference call or in a room with other people all needing to talk and be heard.**

That's where the EMEET OfficeCore M0 Plus comes in. It's a **Bluetooth compatible speakerphone** that **picks up conversation** no matter where it's coming from in a room, **cancels** out background noise, and **improves the quality** of your calls, **no matter where you are.**

Gadget of the Month:



**EMEET
Office
Core M0
Plus**

Get yours today on Amazon for \$59.99!

What's NEW at CSU?

Do you know how many calories are in a slice of pi?

Approximately 3.14.

But be careful. Too much pi will give you a large circumference!!

3.14.24 PI DAY! (with a twist)

You know this day can't pass without a fun pie party at CSU...

But not without a twist.

These 3 pies were eaten-without utensils!



Will came in first place by inhaling his piece in one breath. Nina worked hard and came closely behind him.



And there's more...

Melvin was at a disadvantage with a piece 3 times the size of everyone else.



Stage 1:
He finds out we aren't using utensils



Stage 2:
After waiting to be served last, he sees his portion in comparison to everyone else's



Stage 3:
He calls his wife for emotional support



Stage 4:
He shows his face of determination to win anyway

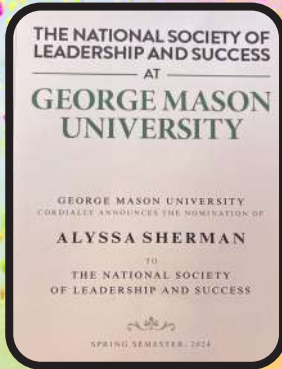


Stage 5:
Melvin couldn't inhale in one breath, but this is the aftermath of his efforts!



*Another year has come and gone...
LET'S CELEBRATE!*

*Happy Birthday to our beloved
Alyssa!*



Not only has she been getting older, but Alyssa has been chosen among only 12% of GMU students to become a member of the largest collegiate honor society in the U.S.- for leadership!

This girl is on fire and she is just getting started!! We are so proud of her.



And... can you believe it?



*Mike has been with CSU for a whopping 26 years!
Now that's called loyalty folks.
You are irreplaceable, Mike!!!*



We Found Another Good One!

Happy 1 Year Anniversary to our talented, persistent, hard-working, and resourceful gem, Wanda!

You have been such an asset to our team and we wouldn't be the same without you!

Cheers to more years ahead :)





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*"Whether you think
you can or think you
can't, you're right."*

-Henry Ford

