



Connection

December 2025

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- Managed Services
- IT Consulting
- Network Security
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- Mobile Device Management
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Quote of the Month

"Kindness is like snow—it beautifies everything it covers." — Kahlil Gibran



Zero-Risk Holiday Shopping: The Power of Password Managers & Virtual Cards

Have you ever worried about your credit card or personal information being stolen while shopping online? You're not alone. Every holiday season, as millions of people turn to online shopping for convenience, cybercriminals increase their efforts. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reports that scammers regularly set up fake shopping sites and send phishing emails to steal money and sensitive data—especially during the holidays.

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Get more free tips, tools, and services on our website www.csuinc.com

If you plan on shopping this season, now is the ideal time to strengthen your online security. Two simple tools—password managers and virtual cards—can make a major difference. But how do they help?

Why More Shoppers Are Turning to Password Managers and Virtual Cards

Online shopping is convenient, fast, and often more affordable than shopping in-store, but it comes with security risks. That's why many people rely on password managers and virtual cards to make their digital purchases safer.

A password manager creates and stores strong, unique passwords for all your accounts, lowering the risk of unauthorized access. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recommends using password managers to prevent password reuse and safeguard sensitive information from cyberthreats.

Virtual cards offer another layer of protection. These temporary card numbers are tied to your actual credit or debit card, but the retailer never sees your real information. This helps shield you from identity theft and fraudulent transactions.

Tips for Using Password Managers and Virtual Cards for Zero-Risk Holiday Shopping

Before you start filling your cart, make sure your financial information is protected. Here's how to get the most out of these security tools during the holiday rush:

- Choose a reputable password manager.** Pick a trustworthy provider with strong encryption and a proven track record.

- Create a strong master password.**

This is the key to all your stored passwords, so make it your most secure one.

- Enable two-factor authentication (2FA).** Even if a hacker gets your password, they can't log in without your verification code.

- Use virtual cards for each retailer.** If one store is breached, only that virtual card is affected—your main account stays safe.

- Monitor expiration dates and limits.** Many virtual cards expire after one use or a set period. Setting spending limits also helps prevent fraudulent charges and supports better budgeting.

- Shop only on trusted websites.** Stick to well-known retailers or sites you're familiar with.

Common Mistakes to Avoid for Safer Online Shopping

Even with great tools, small missteps can still put your information at risk. Avoid these common pitfalls:

- Reusing passwords.** One compromised password can endanger all your accounts.

- Shopping on public Wi-Fi.** Cybercriminals can easily spy on unsecured networks, making them unsafe for transactions.

- Ignoring security alerts.** If your bank or security tools warn you of unusual activity, respond immediately.

- Saving cards in your browser.** If someone gains access to your browser, your stored card details can be stolen.

Need help strengthening your cybersecurity before the holiday shopping rush? We can help you protect your data with smarter, easy-to-use security tools. Stay safe!



A SNOWMAN'S HOLIDAY TECH TIPS

1. Snowflakes are unique, and your passwords should be too!
2. Don't let your holiday shopping melt your wallet – stick to trusted websites.
3. A snowman never shares his scarf ... or personal information.
4. Beware of "to cool to be true" holiday deals.
5. Before you travel, make sure your devices are backed up, just in case they slip on ice.
6. Use strong PINs – not your birthday or "1234snow"
7. Avoid frosty surprises, update your devices before the holidays get busy.
8. Don't get snowed by phishing emails, check the sender twice before you click
9. Don't post your travel plans – burglars love an empty igloo.
10. Keep the holiday spirit high and your cybersecurity higher!

Gadget of the Month!

**\$170 on the
LumeCube site!**



LUME CUBE EDGE LIGHT 2.0

This sleek, clamp-on LED desk lamp features edge-lit technology for soft, flicker-free lighting, 270° rotation, USB/A/C charging ports, and adjustable brightness and color temperature which makes it perfect for work or video calls. Whether you're tweaking a design, snapping the perfect photo, or jumping on a video call to pitch your idea, the Edge 2.0 is the go-to desk lamp for getting things done in style.



THE SMB GUIDE TO MAKING YOUR WEBSITE AND DOCUMENTS DIGITALLY ACCESSIBLE

Have you ever considered how many potential customers leave your website due to accessibility barriers? A UK study found that 69% of disabled internet users abandon sites that are not accessible. For small and midsize businesses, that represents a major lost opportunity. This guide outlines simple, practical steps to make your website and documents more inclusive for every visitor.

Make Your Visuals and Documents Accessible to Everyone

Visual accessibility is often forgotten, even though millions of people live with visual impairments. Text should be easy to read against its background, ideally with a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1. Free tools like WebAIM's Contrast Checker can help you verify this.

When creating PDFs, make sure they are properly tagged with structured elements—headings, paragraphs, tables—so screen readers can navigate them. Add meaningful alt text to images and ensure the reading order makes sense. Running a quick accessibility check can dramatically improve user experience.

Make Reading Easier and Reduce Cognitive Load

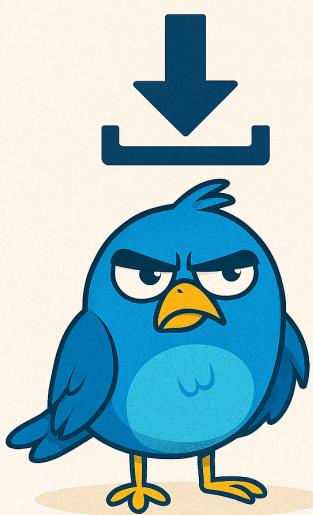
Use plain, straightforward language and avoid jargon or overly complex sentences. Break content into short paragraphs supported by clear subheadings. Sans-serif fonts such as Arial or Verdana are easier to read on screens; use at least 14-point text and avoid all caps or heavy italics.

Provide captions or transcripts for videos and audio content to support deaf or hard-of-hearing users. For visitors with limited mobility, make sure your site works fully with a keyboard, and avoid features that require precise clicking or dragging.

Make Accessibility Part of Your Brand Identity

For SMBs, accessibility is both good business and good customer service. It strengthens your reputation, builds trust, and helps you avoid legal issues—especially as requirements like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) apply to many websites.

With thoughtful design, beauty and accessibility can absolutely go hand in hand.



DID YOU KNOW... you can download to a bird?

A musician and science enthusiast recently attempted something unusual—storing data inside a starling. Yes, an actual bird.

He converted an image into sound, then played the audio repeatedly to the starling. Surprisingly, the bird later produced a similar waveform on its own, holding the equivalent of 176 kilobytes of uncompressed data.

While this is more of a scientific curiosity than a real technological breakthrough (after all, your “storage device” could literally fly away), it highlights just how bizarre—and fascinating—the intersection of biology and technology can become.



I.T. Trivia! Can you get 5/5?

1. Bing is a search engine developed by what company?
2. What is another name for a URL saved in a web browser?
3. A “Page Not Found” error on a website is also known by what error code?
4. Microsoft Word’s native file format uses what file extension?
5. What is the standard Windows keyboard shortcut for the Cut command?

1. Microsoft
2. A bookmark
3. 404
4. .docx
5. Control + x

What's NEW at CSU?



NEW PUP ALERT!

Welcome Paola's new dog, Chanel! Isn't she a cutie? Faye has some competition!



CSU proudly supports Gracing Spaces, a local nonprofit that turns empty spaces into welcoming homes for neighbors transitioning out of homelessness.

Michelle brings her creativity into that mission by handcrafting beaded jewelry and donating proceeds to help fund Gracing Spaces' work—transforming personal artistry into practical support for families rebuilding their lives.



CSU Holiday Hours:

**Closed December 25th - 26th,
and January 1st**

Can you solve this?

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Gift} \\ + \\ \text{Gift} \\ + \\ \text{Gift} \end{array} = 9$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Gift} \\ + \\ \text{Gift} \\ + \\ \text{Gift} \end{array} = 4$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Gift} \\ + \\ \text{Gift} \\ + \\ \text{Gift} \end{array} = 7$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Gift} \\ + \\ \text{Gift} \\ + \\ \text{Gift} \end{array} = ?$$

