



The CYBER GURU



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The shopping season is upon us, and with the growth in the popularity of online shopping, the SDCOE Cybersecurity team recognizes the need to talk about e-commerce and what we should be aware of while shopping online. If you are going to get the best out of your online shopping activities without falling prey to criminals, you will need to take a few precautions.

The common security features of an e-commerce site are the inclusion of SSL certificates – indicated by a closed lock on your browser near the address bar – and a URL that starts with “https”. In addition, the website should comply with Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards.

Criminals often create sites that are the exact duplicates of your favorite e-commerce sites and use search-engine-optimization tricks and techniques to get you to their site, where you will type your username and password to purchase items. Even though search engines are very useful when you are looking for products, there is always the risk of clicking on a malicious site. Instead of just clicking a link to your selected retailer’s website, it is much safer to type the URL into the address bar of your browser. Lots of credit card companies will issue a temporary credit card number for their customers. These cards can be useful for a one-time purchase. Finally, it is best to use a dedicated computer system for online banking and shopping when possible.



Security is everyone’s responsibility.

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