pcsTechNEWS

Seasons Greetings!

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5 Safe Online Shopping Tips for This Holiday Season

Keep the Grinch from stealing your data with these tips for safe online shopping. There is no better time to shop online than the holidays, when the hoards of shoppers can sap your energy and holiday spirit. But the Grinch may be stealing more than the presents from Whoville; he might be stealing your personal information if you don't take precautions for safe online holiday shopping.
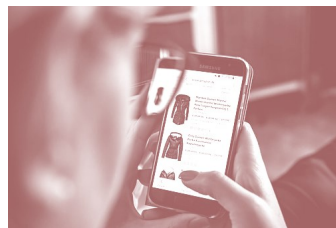
5 safe online shopping tips:

1. Ho-ho-hold on before you click on a link delivered to you in an email. Can't wait to buy that Chia Pet for 80 percent off? Beware clicking on links you receive from unfamiliar websites. It could be a "phishing" scheme, where shoppers who click through are led to a false site developed to steal their data. If the deal is too good to pass up, enter the website name by hand into your browser.

2. Santa's watching! And so are thieves unless you lock your device. Webroot found that a surprising 53 percent of respondents leave their devices unlocked, which can expose their personal information to prying eyes. Most devices request that you lock it with a password or code: take advantage of this feature to keep your information secure.

3. 'Appy holidays: For safe online shopping, make sure your apps are downloaded from a trusted source, such as the Android Market, Apple Store or the Amazon App Store. When you download the app, it will ask for various "permissions". Be sure to read through them and note whether they make sense...for example, does a shopping app need access to your contact list? Another way to check on the safety of apps is to read through the feedback in the comments section of the market and choose apps with a high rating.

4. There's no place like home for the holidays...for safe online holiday shopping. Remember a secure network connection—like that in most homes or workplaces—is ideal. Public Wi-Fi can be hacked by someone with the right tools, exposing your passwords, billing information and other sensitive data. Therefore, if you're using a public connection, it's best to limit yourself to window-shopping and price comparing, rather than buying.

By Cathie Ericson, USA TODAY

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5. Deck your halls: A security app is more than ornamental window dressing—it's vital for online shopping. Webroot found that only 40 percent of respondents have a security app installed on their smartphones and tablets, putting their devices and personal information at risk. Take a hint from older surfers: While younger users more often use their devices for shopping—to place orders, compare prices and download coupons—the survey found that users ages 50 and older were more likely to have security on their device.

Above all, **to stay healthy and wealthy, you've got to be wise**. Just as you would exercise caution with your wallet and belongings in a crowded store, remember to be as vigilant in the World Wide Mall. Keep your cyber information secure while enjoying safe holiday shopping online. The number one way to protect your device and data is to install mobile anti-virus software and make sure it is up to date. In fact, it just might be the perfect gift for everyone on your shopping list!

WARNING: Not for holiday shopping only! These online shopping tips are to be practiced all year round!

Testimonial

"Thank you Dave and your team, for dealing with me in this work crisis. Your team was excellent. Your firm was a diamond find!"
Patti Mowry / Peters Township Sanitary Authority

Managed Services is like having a gift that keeps on giving! InformationTechnology is a crucial part of any business. In most practices or organizations, this ranges from hardware, such as servers, PC's, printers or scanners, to software systems such as a database, email or web applications.

These IT systems are increasingly complex with technologies like virtualization and cloud computing becoming part of the infrastructure. Advancements in technology make managing these services a complicated endeavor.

Businesses are continually facing challenges in scaling and managing their IT infrastructure while effectively reducing cost. System stability, availability, and performance are critical to running a successful organization.

Manages Services gives an organization's decision makers control over which services will be managed by the IT company, and which ones will be kept in-house. In addition, it gives their users access to a team of technology experts, who are just a call or email away. As their needs change, the services can be tailored and optimized. This solution provides continuity of business operations with constant network monitoring, fault detection, active virus prevention, and system administration.

The value of managed services exists at the heart of the company keeping all activities, communications, and transactions of the business up and running.

Give yourself the gift of Managed Services and get the competitive advantage for your business.

Call PCS, your Managed Services Provider at 724-942-1337.

PCS Is Fired Up About Referrals!

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- ♦ Send us a qualified referral (5 or more computers) and you'll be rewarded with our Coat of Arms t-shirt!

- ♦ If your referral books an appointment, you'll have your choice of a gift card, gift basket of treats, an awesome PCS Coat of Arms growler, or whatever we think your office will enjoy!

- ♦ If your referral becomes a PCS client, you'll be receiving a monetary reward or we will be happy to make a donation in your name to one of your favorite charities.

And that's not all!...

- ♦ Once a year we will be holding a live Facebook drawing for a chance to win a grand prize with a value of $500 or more! For each new PCS client you are responsible for, the better your chance to win!

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook!

Meet Pilot

Smart Earpiece Language Translator

It's Finally Here!
A world without language barriers

Meet Pilot! The world's first smart earpiece which translates between users speaking different languages. Being lost in translation has happened to everyone while traveling, even those at Waverly, and that's exactly how the idea was born. Waverly Labs is at the convergence of wearable technology + machine translation, developing the world's first smart earpiece language translator.

Using the latest technologies in speech recognition, machine translation and the advances of wearable technology, the smart earpiece allows wearers to speak different languages but still clearly understand each other. Simply put, when one person speaks, the other hears it in their language. Science fiction has called it many things, but Waverly calls it Pilot.

To start with, the first languages available will be English, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. New language groups will be made available for download including Germanic, Hebrew, Arabic, Russian and Slavic, East Asian and African languages.

Winter shipments have already sold out, but are available for pre-order for next shipment! **Get ready—Pilot is here!**

PCS Sponsors of the 2017 AAdvantage & Arc Human Services Annual Awards Dinner

Pictured Left to Right—Front Row: Ian Miller, Duncan Shaw, Christi Balint, Susan Haas, David Deuerling and Brandon Ansell
Back Row: Lorraine Caruso, Lori Deuerling and John Bottichio

Pittsburgh Computer Solutions sponsored and attended the Annual Awards Dinner for AAdvantage and Arc Human Services (AHS) on November 15, 2017 at Bella Sera Restaurant in Canonsburg, PA. The awards dinner honors those who continually support their organizations work.

AAdvantage and AHS are committed to providing effective supports and services to individuals with disabilities and their families. Their mission is to help these individuals connect to the community, be the best they can be, and live fulfilling lives.

PCS is the Managed Services and IT support for AAdvantage, AHS and many other non-profit organizations. Along with IT services, PCS has supported the employment services at AHS for a number of years. PCS retains the bi-weekly office cleaning services at Arc, allowing for the PCS staff to interact and get to know many of the individuals with disabilities. It has become a relationship that Pittsburgh Computer Solutions is committed to continuing for years to come.

William "BJ" Dukett is one of the newest staff members that clean our office. BJ was happy to be included in our newsletter!

Just for fun: First person to guess correctly which 2 people in the above photo were *not* in attendance, wins a $25 Sarris Candies gift card! Email your answers to: shaas@pcsmsp.com