Message from the CIO

This fall semester has past very quickly – our campus has been a flurry of activity. As is customary, we provide Safe Computing Tips to keep in mind throughout the holiday season and winter break. On behalf of the Office of the CIO and the TTU IT Division we extend our season greetings and best wishes to the TTU community! Thank you all for your collaborative efforts as we work to provide information resources in support of TTU strategic goals and initiatives. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

-Sam Segran
Associate Vice President for IT and Chief Information Officer
All the way from the North Pole... a friendly reminder from IT “Elf” Central that TTU Apple and Dell discounts also apply to personal purchases. Visit [www.ithelpcentral.ttu.edu](http://www.ithelpcentral.ttu.edu) and click on “Buying the Right Computer” to access the TTU Apple and Dell product websites.

'Tis the Season... A Reminder to Practice Safe Computing Around the Holidays

December is a prime time for identity theft and online criminal activity, so the TTU IT Division recommends that you be vigilant and practice safe computing during this festive season:

• Guard the security of your online shopping transactions. When submitting your purchase, look for the lock icon on the browser’s status bar and make sure that “https” appears in the address (https://...);

• Print and save records of your online transactions, in particular the online receipt and any electronic correspondence you had with the retailer or seller. Read your credit card and bank statements as you receive them and immediately report unauthorized charges;

• Don’t travel with all your credit cards;

• Avoid accessing personal information from public computers. Most public wireless connections are not secure, so avoid using them for important transactions; for example, transactions requiring a login;

• Due to the public nature of social media, we encourage you to wait until you return home to post your holiday vacation details and photos. Posting such information “advertises” that you are not home, possibly making your unoccupied home more vulnerable to criminals prowling the web for personal information; and

• While on vacation, turn off location service applications on your phone unless you need to use one.

For more safe computing information please visit [http://safecomputing.ttu.edu](http://safecomputing.ttu.edu) or contact IT Help Central at (806)742-HELP (4357).

Contributions by: Katherine Austin Beltz, Ph.D., Britta Tye, and Laura Webb.
Safe Computing Practices Committee: Sam Segran, Katherine Austin Beltz, Ph.D., Jeff Barrington, Darrell Bateman, Pulin Bhatt, Shannon Cepica, Paco Díaz, Scott Hall, Mark Holwerda, Michael Horton, Danny Mar, Ron Nail, Yung Ng, Randall Osborne, Mike Simmons, Phil Smith, Ph.D., J Stalcup, Britta Tye, John Vandygriff, Allen Young, and assistance from IT Division leadership and staff.