Message from the CIO

As the semester winds down and we approach the holidays and winter break, we remind the TTU Community that the season is one of the “prime times” for Internet criminals, so we offer an article on Safe Computing Practices. If computing equipment is on your Santa list, remember that Dell and Apple Offer Discounts to TTU faculty, staff, and students for your personal purchases. We thank all of you for another successful year of collaboration, partnership, and contribution! On behalf of the entire TTU IT Division, Season's Greetings, Happy Holidays, and Merry Christmas!

-Sam Segran
Associate Vice President for IT and Chief Information Officer

‘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 vigilnt and practice safe computing during this festive season:

• Guard the security of your online shopping transactions. Limit online shopping to vendors you know and trust. Do not respond to pop-ups. As a prerequisite for online shopping, be sure your system has the latest security updates and is currently protected by antivirus software. 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. Public wireless connections are inherently not secure; avoid using them for important transactions, e.g. 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 live “advertises” that you are not home, possibly making your unoccupied home more vulnerable to criminals prowling the web for personal information;
• While on vacation, turn off location service applications on your phone unless you need to use one; and
• Be on alert for potential charity donation scams.

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

Thanks to our partnership with Dell & Apple, you can do your holiday shopping in your PJs!

Texas Tech faculty, staff and students can receive discounts on Dell & Apple products. For Departmental and Personal purchases:
http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ithelpcentral/recommend.php
Season’s Greetings & Happy Holidays from the TTU IT Division

Contributions by: Katherine Austin Beltz, Ph.D., Jessica Anderson, Darrell Bateman, Britta Tye, and Allen Young.
Safe Computing Practices Committee: Sam Segran, Katherine Austin Beltz, Ph.D., Jeff Barrington, Darrell Bateman, Shannon Cepica, Scott Hall, 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.

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Texas Tech University Website: www.ttu.edu
Computer-Based Training(CBT): cbt.ttu.edu
Safe Computing Practices: safecomputing.ttu.edu

Mail Stop 2008
Phone: 742-5151
Fax: 742-5155