



# Keeping Your Organization Safe

## Assessing & Ensuring Technology Security

# TODAY'S AGENDA

- Big everyday risks
- Simple habits and checklists to lower risk fast
- A clear first-hour game plan when something goes wrong

# What Worries You Most?

1. **Fake invoices or suspicious payment requests**
2. **Change in ACH information from vendors**
3. **Change in direct deposit information from employees**
4. **Email or text scams asking you to click a link**
5. **Lost or stolen laptop/phone**
6. **A vendor getting breached and impacting us**

# Why This Matters?

- Protecting student and employee information
- Keeping operations running with minimal downtime
- Avoiding costly mistakes and reputational damage
- Meeting policy and legal expectations without the jargon

# What Are We Protecting?

- People data and payments
- Email and files
- Financial Information and Resources
- Systems and apps we rely on (including cloud/SaaS)



# Common Ways Trouble Starts

- Tricky messages: urgent requests, too-good-to-be-true offers
- Weak or shared passwords; no two-step sign-in
- Lost or stolen devices without screen lock
- Vendors with weak practices

# A Simple Analogy

Think of security like home safety:

- Locks (passwords & two-step sign-in)
- Alarms (alerts & reporting)
- A valuables list (know what matters)
- A fire drill (practice the first hour)

# **Self-Check: Score 1-5**

- 1. Do we use two-step sign-in for email and finance tools?**
- 2. Are laptops/phones set to auto-update?**
- 3. Can we find our important files fast—and know who has access?**
- 4. Do staff know how to spot and report a sketchy email?**
- 5. Do we have reliable backups—and have we test-restored this quarter?**

# **Self-check (Continued)**

- 6. Do new vendors answer basic security questions before we sign?**
- 7. Do departing staff lose access the same day?**
- 8. Is there a short ‘who to call’ list for incidents?**
- 9. Are sensitive files kept off personal email/drives?**
- 10. Do leaders see a simple monthly safety scorecard?**

# Five Habits That Cut Risk the Most

1. Two-step sign-in everywhere it matters
2. Strong, unique passwords (with a manager)
3. Automatic updates for devices and apps
4. Think before you click; report suspicious messages
5. Store/share files the approved, safer way

A photograph showing a person's hands typing on a white laptop keyboard. The laptop is open and angled towards the viewer. In the background, there is a black coffee cup with a white lid on a wooden surface. The lighting is warm and natural, suggesting a workspace or office environment.

# **Habit 1**

## **Two-Step Sign-In**

- Add a second check when you sign in (code or app prompt)**
- Turn it on for email, HR, payroll, and finance tools first**
- Leaders: ask for monthly % of people on 2-step**

A photograph showing a person's hands typing on a white laptop keyboard. The laptop is open and angled towards the viewer. In the background, there is a white coffee cup with a lid on a wooden surface. The lighting is warm and focused on the hands and the laptop.

# **Habit 2**

## **Strong, Unique Passwords**

- Use a password manager (no more sticky notes or reuse)**
- Never share passwords; managers can share access safely**
- Watch for look-alike login pages; verify the site address**

A photograph of a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. The laptop is open and positioned in the lower-left corner of the frame. In the background, there is a white coffee cup with a lid on a wooden surface. The lighting is warm and natural, suggesting a workspace or office environment.

# Habit 3

## Automatic Updates

- Keep laptops, phones, and key apps on auto-update
- Restart devices regularly so updates can install
- Leaders: ask for % of devices up-to-date each month

A photograph showing a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. The laptop is open and positioned on a light-colored wooden desk. In the background, a black coffee cup with a white lid is placed next to the laptop. The scene suggests a typical work or study environment.

# **Habit 4**

## **Think Before You Click**

- Pause on urgent requests for money, gift cards, or data**
- Use the ‘Report Phish’ button or forward to the help address**
- Verify money moves by calling a known number—not the email**

A photograph of a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. The laptop is open and positioned in the lower-left corner of the frame. In the background, there is a white coffee cup with a lid on a wooden surface. The lighting is warm and natural, suggesting an indoor environment like a coffee shop or office. The title text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# **Habit 5**

## **Safer File Storage & Sharing**

- Use approved folders/tools; avoid personal email/drives
- Remove access when projects end; tidy old shares quarterly
- Label especially sensitive files and limit who can see them

# If Something Happens First-Hour Playbook



- **Pause & preserve:** don't delete, don't pay; take a screenshot
- **Call the right people:** IT/security, supervisor, finance, comms
- **Contain:** if a device acts strange, disconnect Wi-Fi (don't wipe)
- **Decide who needs to know now vs. later;** keep a simple log

# 'Urgent Payment' Email

- You receive an email from the President asking for urgent gift cards/invoice payment
- What do you check? Who do you call? What do you NOT do?

# RECAP



## **Let's Summarize**

**In the world of fiscal services, what can you do that can make a big difference in ensuring a safer technology infrastructure?**