

Staying secure during holiday shopping season

The holiday shopping season is upon us, and online shopping is in full force. Many customers now search for the perfect gift and great deals from the comfort of their home. Unfortunately, the season of giving also brings the increased risk of data theft. There are various techniques hackers use to steal money and other personal identifiable information. Below are some useful tips to practice to reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

Use A Pre-Paid Credit Card

It is a good practice to use one pre-paid card for all of your holiday shopping. If this card is stolen, you won't have to worry about an attacker accessing your entire account.



Tyler Jack eVAL

Keep an eye on your transaction history and keep receipts throughout the holiday season. If you don't use a pre-paid card, at the very least use a card where you can dispute charges if necessary. Disputing charges is not an easy process with all debit card providers.

Avoid Phishing Emails

Hackers can send emails that look like they are from legitimate businesses. Always inspect where any link directs before clicking

on anything or opening an attachment. Remember that trustworthy businesses will never ask for sensitive information through email. If you are not sure if an email is real, reach out to the sender or customer support and double check.

Only Trust Secure Websites

If the website is not protected with a valid security certificate, do not trust it. Make sure to look for the lock symbol and confirm the website address begins with "https://". If a website does not have these, your information could be at risk.

Use Secure Passwords

It is important to protect your personal

information and shopping accounts with strong passwords. An example of a strong password would be using a phrase. A whole sentence with punctuation is very difficult to crack. Never reuse the same password. If a hacker discovers one of your passwords, they will try that password on hundreds of other online accounts.

Don't Trust Public WiFi

You can never be sure the WiFi you are connecting to isn't controlled by a hacker. Attackers can also impersonate legitimate access points to exploit recognizable brand names and your inherent trust. If possible, shop online from home or work.

Law firms pledge a more diverse and inclusive profession

Central Ohio's legal employers have renewed their commitment to improving diversity in the legal profession, by committing to the Managing Partners Diversity Initiative. "Diversity helps us better serve our clients, and it needs to be an ongoing focus of our profession," stated Kurt Tunnell, managing partner for Bricker & Eckler and chair of the Managing Partners Diversity Initiative Advisory Committee.

The Managing Partners Diversity Initiative was first created in 2001, when the Columbus legal community made a historic public pledge to significantly increase the racial diversity of its ranks. Twenty of the city's largest law firms joined the Columbus Bar Association, the John Mercer Langston Bar Association, which is comprised primarily of African American attorneys, and the two area law schools, the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and Capital University Law School. Together, they signed a five-year commitment to attract minority law candidates to the city, increase the number

of minorities hired out of law school and create an atmosphere that encourages minority attorneys to advance in their firms and ultimately become partners.

Over the last 15 years, firms reported significant increases in attorneys of color at many levels compared to 2000, when the first year statistics were collected. While these are promising indications, participants agree they are nowhere near our ultimate vision of true diversity and inclusion. Today's 23 participating law firms are committed to recruiting, hiring, training, retaining and inviting attorneys of color to partnership, pledging to achieve meaningful, measurable and lasting progress toward greater inclusion of minority legal talent.

The Managing Partners Diversity Plan has received numerous awards in recent years and is being replicated across the country. "It is our hope that the profession as a whole can benefit from broader, more sustained focus," Tunnell said.

Managing Partners Diversity Initiative Law Firm Partners:

Bailey Cavaliere LLC
BakerHostetler LLP
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP
Bricker & Eckler LLP
Carlile Patchen & Murphy LLP
Carpenter, Lipps & Leland LLP
Crabbe, Brown & James, LLP
Dinsmore & Shohl
Frost Brown Todd LLC
Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP

Ice Miller, LLP Legal Counsel
Isaac Wiles Burkholder & Teetor LLC
Jones Day
Kegler Brown, Hill & Ritter
Maguire & Schneider, LLP
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP
Reminger Co., LPA
Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
Thompson Hine LLP
Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP

Healthcare open enrollment deadline Dec. 15

Through the Affordable Care Act, Americans now have access to healthcare marketplaces. Those seeking new coverage can apply for insurance beginning Nov. 1, for coverage that starts on Jan. 1, 2017. The deadline to apply is Dec. 15.

Even those who are currently covered are encouraged to update their expected income and household information. If expected income has changed, there is a possibility that an individual's premium tax credit will change for 2017.

Through Willis and ConnectedHealth, the Columbus Bar Association created a unique Columbus Bar Association Marketplace, an online marketplace

where members and their employees can shop for individual and family health insurance, as well as vision, dental, identity protection, accident insurance, and critical illness coverage.

The CBA Marketplace is designed to give users the tools needed to easily navigate through the shopping process and confidently choose the best coverage based on their healthcare needs and budget.

Those interested can create an account on the CBA Marketplace by visiting the Columbus Bar website, www.cbaweb.org.

Save the Date

Cruisin' with the Columbus Bar

COLUMBUS BAR FOUNDATION AND ASSOCIATION

Gala 2017

Saturday, March 11 @ 6:00pm
Hollywood Casino of Columbus

This annual fundraiser supports the mission of the Columbus Bar Foundation.

www.cbaweb.org
(614) 221-4112