Concept Corner

Computers often cause us to lose sight of security. The only person who can be blamed for something is you. It is your security and the safety of your family, so you must learn how to keep yourself safe on the internet. The internet is a tool that can be a positive or negative experience. It can be a threat to your security, but it can also be a tool to make you feel safe and secure. Below are some tips to help you stay safe on the internet.

1. Avoid Clicking on Suspicious Links

When browsing online, avoid clicking on suspicious links, as they may be used to trick users into entering a website solely for the purpose of displaying ads. It is recommended that you use a trusted browser to avoid clicking on suspicious links. In the case of security breaches, all personal information should be kept secure and not shared with anyone.

2. Avoid Phishing Scams

When checking emails, assist the email provider in filtering future spam emails by moving them to a spam folder. Some emails may contain suspicious content, and you should be cautious about clicking on links or downloading attachments. It is important to avoid clicking on links that lead to websites that do not seem reputable.

3. Use Strong Passwords

In the era of digital citizenship, it is important to secure your personal information. It is recommended that you use a strong password that is unique for each account. The password should be at least 10 characters long, contain a mixture of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols, and be difficult to guess. Avoid using personal information such as your birthday or pet's name in your password.

4. Keep Your Software and Operating System Updated

Computers often have us fooled into thinking we are secure; nobody on the other side of the screen can instantly cause physical harm. Be careful! The best way to approach your security is to think of it like shopping at a mall; though not a threatening environment, you still take measures to protect yourself. You lock your car, conceal your credit card information, and avoid entering unsafe areas. Here are some ways you can do it to be safe on the internet.

Finally, regularly run antivirus and antimalware software on your computer (Norton, McAfee, and Bitdefender are good tools). Keep your programs and operating system updated. Back up important files. Identify and eliminate digital citizenship among young students.

Pedagogic Pointers

Free BrainPOP Lesson: BrainPOP Jr. is an internet safety video, interactive, and lesson materials are one of the resources that make it easier to integrate computer science into your school's subscription data. A version of the internet safety lesson for older students is also available. Aligns with CS K-2, K-11, 1-10, 1-13, 2-10, 3-10, 4-10, 5-10.

Basecamp Jr. Internet Safety

Lesson and Video: Common Sense Education has a video and lesson plan designed to help teachers teach online safety principles and how to navigate online spaces in a secure way. Accessing the full materials requires a subscription, but there are no costs associated with joining. Aligns with CS K-2, K-11, 1-10, 2-10, 3-10, 4-10, 5-10.

Access Safety to my Online Neighborhood

Computer Science in the Commonwealth

Computer Science Week is an event that celebrates the contributions of computer scientists and engineers. It is held each year during the week of Grace Hopper's birthday, an American computer scientist, mathematician, and US Navy Rear Admiral. A member of the team responsible for designing the UNIVAC computer, she is known for her contributions to the development of computing technology. A pioneer of computer programming, it is an opportunity to spotlight the ever-evolving role and impact of computer science. During CS Ed Week there is the flagship activity, Hour of Code, that is designed and shared from Code.org. CS Ed Week can be a great way to introduce students to computing and computational thinking and algorithm design. This is also a time for school Family Code Nights, showcases student work, and recognizes CS teacher of the Year.

Engaging All Learners

The concept of digital citizenship involves responsible use of computing devices, an idea that goes hand-in-hand with internet safety. It is important for adults to model consistent online behavior to protect our children's and families' safety. The internet is not perfect, regularly check your spam folder for missing important emails. Have it set to require your permission before external images from emails load. If you automatically load, spammers know that you are vulnerable. Always, if you have any questions or comments for us, please don't hesitate to email us at tcep@odu.edu.

Sincerely,

The ARCS Team