University of Central Florida

# INFOSEC

Security Awareness Newsletter

Issue 12 | December 12, 2023

## UCF Information Security Office

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## Top 3: Security News in December 2023

**1. Kremlin-backed hackers attacking unpatched Outlook systems, Microsoft says**

TheRecord.media

Hackers associated with Russia's military intelligence are still actively exploiting a vulnerability in Microsoft software to gain access to victims' emails.

**2. Booking.com clients prone to cyber fraud, warns analyst**

CyberNews.com

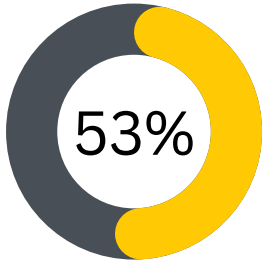
One of the world's largest online travel agencies says its customers are being increasingly targeted by scammers, according to a cybersecurity firm.

**3. Google Unveils RETVec - Gmail's New Defense Against Spam and Malicious Emails**

ITheHackerNews.com

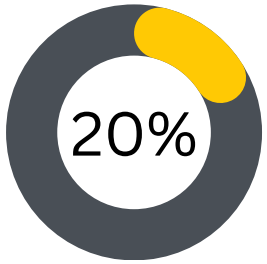
Google has revealed a new multilingual text vectorizer called RETVec (short for Resilient and Efficient Text Vectorizer) to help detect potentially harmful content such as spam and malicious emails in Gmail.

## DID YOU KNOW?



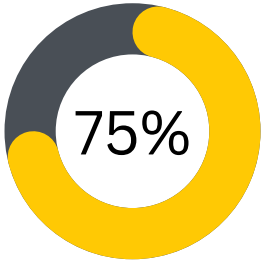

**Cybercriminals Escalate Microsoft Office Attacks By 53% in 2023**

Report reveals an average detection of 411,000 malicious files per day this year, Click to read more.




**Suspected digital shopping fraud up 12% during Cyber Five holiday**

An ew report released by TransUnion highlights global e-commerce fraud that occurred during the start of the 2023 holiday shopping season.
Click to read more.




**75% of sports-related passwords are reused across accounts**

33% of Americans have used a sports-themed password.
Click to read more.

# December Security Article

## Tis the Season for Cyber-Smart Shopping: Protect Yourself While Embracing the Holiday Spirit

As the holiday season beckons, the excitement of gift-giving and festive bargains fills the air. However, amidst the joyful hustle and bustle, the need for cyber vigilance is paramount. With cyber threats looming, students, esteemed faculty and staff at our university must gear up for a cyber-safe shopping spree.

**1. Check Your Devices: Strengthen Your Cyber Armor**

In the realm of cybersecurity, fortifying your devices is the first line of defense:

**a) Implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)**

Elevate your account security with MFA—it's like adding a lock to your digital front door. Protect your valuable information with this powerful shield against potential cyber intruders.

**b) Update & Automate Your Software**

Stay ahead in the cyber race by regularly updating your device software. Activate automatic updates to ensure your defenses are always reinforced against evolving threats.

**2. Shop Only Through Trusted Sources: Navigate the Digital Marketplace Safely**

In the labyrinth of online shopping, steering clear of cyber threats requires informed choices:

**a) Think Before You Click**

Phishing emails are the gateway for many cyber-attacks. Exercise caution and verify sources before clicking any link. Your careful consideration could thwart potential cyber threats.

**b) Use Strong Passwords & Managers**

Craft sturdy, unique passwords and consider employing a password manager. It's the digital equivalent of safeguarding your valuables in a high-security vault.

**3. Use Safe Methods for Purchasing: Secure Your Financial Transactions**

When it comes to transactions, adopting secure methods is non-negotiable:

**a) Opt for Secure Payment Channels**

Prioritize safety over expediency. Choose encrypted websites and secure payment options to shield your financial information from prying eyes.

**b). Stay Vigilant**

Regularly monitor your financial statements and promptly report any suspicious activity. A vigilant eye can detect and deter cyber adversaries.

As our university community spreads the holiday cheer, let's fortify our digital defenses and shop with confidence. By integrating these cybersecurity practices into our shopping routines, we can ensure a joyous season without falling prey to cyber grinches.

Remember, a proactive approach to cybersecurity is the best gift you can give yourself this holiday season. Stay safe, stay savvy, and embrace the spirit of secure shopping!

# In Other (Security) News...

### Apple Patches Actively Exploited iOS Zero-Days

Apple has been forced to patch yet another pair of zero-day vulnerabilities, bringing the total for the year to 20. The tech giant said that the two bugs in its WebKit browser engine were being actively exploited in the wild.
Click to read more.

### Cybersecurity Trends Point to More Sophisticated Attacks Ahead

As ransomware attacks keep hitting state and local organizations — and tech advancements like generative AI have continued apace — cyber experts predict evolving malicious tactics for 2024.
Click to read more.

### Don't click December: Feds Warn of Three Most Common Scams

The FBI, US Attorney's Office, Police, and other US authorities are alerting the public to common online fraud schemes. Common among them are the "package can't be delivered," "account subscription," and "phantom hacker" scams.
Click to read more.

# Security Alerts

### Microsoft Outlook Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability

Click to read more.

### Chrome versions had a renderer exploit allowing sandbox escape via a file

Click to read more.