

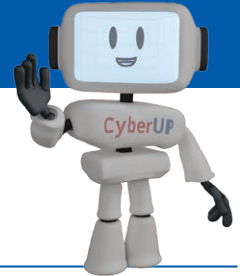


UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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Information Technology Services

Information and Cybersecurity Awareness

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You are a target!

'Do your part – be cyber smart'

No one is safe from attack in cyberspace. Cybercriminals are continuously looking for opportunities to enrich themselves. They are not interested in who you are, but in what you have that they can exploit – data, credit cards, bank accounts, computing power, contact lists, and so on.

Introduction

Have you, or a family member or close friend, ever had a handbag stolen from under your nose while you were enjoying a meal at a restaurant or strolling through a shopping centre? And what a loss when your handbag is stolen – there goes your ID book, your cell phone, your purse with cash and bank cards, your keys to your vehicle and house, your sunglasses, a few notes and photos with sentimental value, a favourite lipstick and whatever else. Friends will console you that it's not your fault, criminals are always on the prowl, and even though you always guard your handbag, it can still be stolen in a split second of not being fully alert or when new tricks are used to bypass old and trusted precautionary measures.

The same happens in cyberspace. Cybercriminals are always on the prowl, using methods of ever-increasing



sophistication, looking for digital identities and passwords to steal in order to unlock opportunities to enrich themselves. A moment's carelessness can cost you a lot. Moreover, it can happen to anyone.

How to protect yourself

If you carry a handbag, you can take many measures to protect yourself. You can take care to close the handbag's zipper, make sure it is draped over your shoulder and clasped tightly under your arm, or put it down only where you can see it and retain some hold on it. But this may not be enough.

In the same way, you should ensure that you take all technical precautions that you can, to protect your cellphones, laptops, email accounts, social-media accounts and private information from unauthorised access. However, this may not be enough, and your most important weapon is to be alert, to know what possible tactics can be used against you, not to indiscriminately believe everything you read in your email and on social media, and to think before you click – in short, to be smart!

In the next few articles we will share some important tips for reducing your likelihood of becoming a victim of cybercrime. The purpose is to ensure that UP has an informed staff and student corps, who are on their guard and know how to protect themselves, their families and the University against security breaches and subsequent losses.

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[OUCH! Yes, you are a target](#)

DO MORE



Be aware. Be informed.
Protect yourself and yours.