



## HACKING

Some of our computer lab visitors fear having their computer or mobile devices hacked and shy away from the advantages of on-line banking, the savings gleaned from online purchases, or the convenience of keeping personal information on their devices. someone breaking in to your computer to steal your information? Probably not, because unless you are 1. A CIA agent, 2. Hillary Clinton, or 3. Guardian of KFC's fried chicken recipe, you're simply not important enough.

Stated another way, hackers are mostly interested in massive amounts of data they can sell or use for political advantage or profit, so they're more apt to hack into massive databases. That said, your computer data can be stolen—not by people hacking in, but by you unwittingly giving them the keys. You might do this when you answer a phony E-mail asking for your username and password, or when you allow someone, perhaps posing as a Microsoft agent, to control your computer remotely, or when you open an attachment that contains a virus or other “malware” that gives others access to your computer files.

You can protect yourself by following fairly simple guidelines:

- Require a PIN or password when you turn on your computer or mobile device.
- Ensure your computer is running its virus scanner all the time.
- Use an anti-malware scanner to remove malware that your virus checker misses (such as Malwarebytes).
- Keep your operating system up to date (don't ignore those Windows or Apple updates).
- Set your browser to ask for permission to run Flash or Java scripts
- Don't keep your IDs and passwords in a paper notebook that you could lose.
- Don't ever provide your ID and password in response to an unsolicited E-mail or phone call.
- Don't open unsolicited Email attachments or click on embedded links.
- Don't call 800-numbers for technical support or allow anyone to control your computer unless you're sure you know who they are. Instead, come see us or a reputable computer store.

If you need help, come to the PSRC computer lab where volunteers will be glad to help you Tuesday from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m., and Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon.