

Internet Security

Robert F. Loftus, MSLIS

Internet security refers to steps you can take to protect your computer from viruses, and ways to protect your personal information from being stolen by identity thieves. The more you're willing to learn, the more secure you and your computer will be. There's no such thing as a single program that can protect your computer from everything. Potential threats to your online security include computer viruses, identity theft and phishing schemes. Finally there are Phishing scams, which use bogus websites and e-mails to fool you into giving out your personal information. Since this topic is far too broad to cover in a single handout, we've provided links to reputable websites and software that you can access to help make your online experience safer.

Websites where you can learn more

The websites listed below are all reputable providers of information on how to increase your online security. By reading through the articles on these sites, you can learn more about the "threat landscape" on the internet, and how to protect yourself from hackers and identity thieves.

- **Stop. Think. Connect.: The online security program of the Global Cyber-Security Awareness Campaign**
<http://stopthinkconnect.org/>
- **Stay Safe Online**
<http://www.staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>
- **Online Security: Breaking down the anatomy of a phishing e-mail**
This article provides an explanation of what a phishing e-mail is, and how these scams are used to fool people into voluntarily giving out their personal information.
<http://www.howtogeek.com/58642/online-security-breaking-down-the-anatomy-of-a-phishing-email/>
- **10 important security practices you should follow**
<http://www.howtogeek.com/173478/10-important-computer-security-practices-you-should-follow/>
- **Java is insecure and awful: It's time to disable it, and here's how**
<http://www.howtogeek.com/122934/java-is-insecure-and-awful-its-time-to-disable-it-and-heres-how/>

Software Bibliography

Please remember that when downloading software you should only download the programs from the manufacturer's website. Also, if you attempt to get to any of these websites but keep finding yourself referred to other web addresses, it may mean you already have a redirect virus on your computer.

Ccleaner: A system cleaning tool. This program clears out your cache, temporary internet files, cookies, and numerous other areas. You can begin with the default settings on this program, then learn to use the Ccleaner control panel for fine-tuning. Download from: <http://www.piriform.com>.

Comodo Internet Security: This is one of the best free anti-virus software programs for protecting your computer. A color coded on-screen bar alerts you to the status of your anti-virus software, and a simple "Fix-It" button makes updating easy. I strongly recommend this software to everyone who uses a Windows machine. Download from: <http://www.comodo.com>.

Malwarebytes: A Scanning Tool that's extremely effective at removing components of redirect and ransomware viruses. This is a good bit of software to have installed on your machine, as many computer viruses block installation of this program, so trying to install it after you already have a computer virus can be something of a nightmare. Download from: <http://www.malwarebytes.org>.

Revo Uninstaller: An uninstall tool that can be used to remove unwanted programs from your computer. You should select either this program, or Geek Uninstaller. You do not need to have two uninstall tools on the same computer. Download from: <http://www.revouninstaller.com>.