

# CTIS Connection

*Information Technology Services at Purdue University Calumet*

## Are You Insecure?

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. To help spread awareness of the threats users of technology face, this is the first in a series about Internet Security directly from the Federal Trade Commission. Over the course of the coming month we'll be giving you tips on how to keep yourself and your computer safe.

- Do you shop online?
- Do you view personal bank or credit card information online?
- Do you "surf the net"?
- Do you use e-mail or instant messenger?

If you answered yes to at least one of the above questions, your personal information is more than likely insecure.

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes. When it comes to identity theft, you cannot entirely control whether you will become a victim; but there are certain steps you can take to minimize your risk.

- Order a copy of your credit report every 12 months.
- Place secure passwords on your credit card, bank, and phone accounts.
- Secure personal information in your home.
- Don't give out personal information on the Internet unless you initiated the contact and are sure you know who you are dealing with.
- Don't e-mail personal or financial information.
- If you get an e-mail or pop-up message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply. And don't click on the link in the message, either.
- Use anti-virus software and a firewall, and keep them up to date.
- Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them.
- Be cautious about opening any attachment or downloading any files from e-mails.

Free CDs are available on "How to Guard Against Internet Thieves and Electronic Scams" while supplies last. Stop by Gyte 133 to pick up a copy.

[www.calumet.purdue.edu/ctis](http://www.calumet.purdue.edu/ctis)

Your feedback on our services is always welcome. Please send your comments to Customer Service Center at [csc@calumet.purdue.edu](mailto:csc@calumet.purdue.edu).