

PERKINS COMPUTER CENTER



TRICKS AND TREATS ON THE INTERNET

There's a chill in the air—and it has little to do with a cold front. Some wily pranksters have been trolling the Internet armed with a bag of tricks; some want to cause mischief, while others seek to do real harm. Chief among these are "phishing scams," designed to trick you into revealing personal or financial information. Here are some handy tips from Fraud.org to help you avoid becoming a "phishing" victim—hook, line, and sinker.

Watch out for "phishy" emails. The most common form of phishing is emails pretending to be from a legitimate retailer, bank, organization, or government agency. The sender asks to "confirm" your personal information for some made-up reason: your account is about to be closed, an order for something has been placed in your name, or your information has been lost because of a computer problem.

Don't click on links within emails that ask for your personal information. Fraudsters use these links to lure people to phony Web sites that looks just like the real sites of the company, organization, or agency they're impersonating. If you follow the instructions and enter your personal information on the Web site, you'll deliver it directly into the hands of identity thieves. To check whether the message is really from the company or agency, call it directly or go to its Web site (use a search engine to find it).

Job seekers should also be careful. Some phishers target people who list themselves on job search sites. Pretending to be potential employers, they ask for your social security number and other personal information. Follow the advice above and verify the person's identity before providing any personal information.

Be suspicious if someone contacts you unexpectedly and asks for your personal information. It's hard to tell whether something is legitimate by looking at an email or a Web site, or talking to someone on the phone. But if you're contacted out of the blue and asked for your personal information, it's a warning sign that something is "phishy." Legitimate companies and agencies don't operate that way.

Protect your computer with spam filters, anti-virus and anti-spyware software, and a firewall, and keep them up to date. A spam filter can help reduce the number of phishing emails you get. Anti-virus software, which scans incoming messages for troublesome files, and anti-spyware software, which looks for programs that have been installed on your computer and track your online activities without your knowledge, can protect you against pharming and other techniques that phishers use. Firewalls prevent hackers and unauthorized communications from entering your computer – which is especially important if you have a broadband connection because your computer is open to the Internet whenever it's turned on. Look for programs that offer automatic updates and take advantage of free patches that manufacturers offer to fix newly discovered problems. Go to www.onguardonline.gov and www.staysafeonline.org to learn more about how to keep your computer secure. (Continued)

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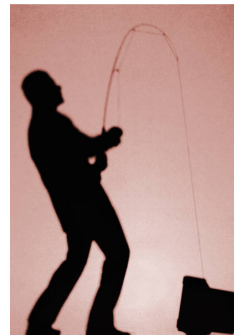
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TRICKS AND TREATS ON THE INTERNET



HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR!

FUNNY TOMBSTONES



Beware of Phishing Scams Through the Internet!

FUNNY TOMBSTONES...

- "I told you I was sick."
- "Connection reset by peer—he came, he saw, he logged out."
- "She always said her feet were killing her"
- "Here lies Mary Lass— She missed the brake and hit the gas"
- "Here lies Mary Aster— She should have jaywalked a little faster"
- "Here lies Elvis. Deal with it!"

TRICKS AND TREATS ON THE INTERNET (cont.)

Finally, let's end on a pleasant note and focus on the different treats that can be found on the internet. Most people know about Facebook and Twitter but there are new ways of communication popping up all the time. The latest craze is all about global location guides. Downloadable applications on your smart phone enable you to discover new hotspots, explore your surroundings, and connect with friends. Your cell phone will send a signal to a given area, and pertinent information will pop up. Say you are walking down a street in Paris—as you approach a store or landmark, your cell phone will receive information such as a coupon for a free coffee at the bistro you just passed, or some fun facts about the museum on the corner. Certain applications can be tailor-made to your likes and dislikes, resulting in a personalized experience in your daily interactions. How soon do you think it will be until a future like The Jetsons appears?

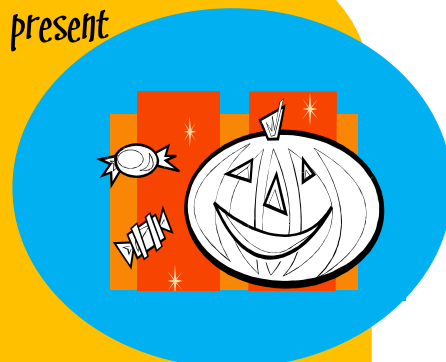
We hope we've given you some handy hints to help avoid falling prey to some common internet tricks. Again, you can avoid the pitfalls of some phishing tricks by staying vigilant and running your anti-virus and spyware software. As always, you can contact Perkins Computer Center for easy virus removal starting at only \$60*!

Happy Halloween from all of us at hSoft-Perkins Computer Center!

h-Soft Perkins Computer and Look Studios & Gallery proudly present

Halloween Spooktacular!

Friday, October 22 2010 4:30-7:30 pm



Join us at Perkins Computer Center for Free Children's Games, Free Face Painting, a Costume Contest, Spooky Storytelling, Delicious Food, and Lots of FREE CANDY!



Bring your own pumpkin
and enter our Pumpkin
Decorating Contest to win
great prizes!

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Q: WHY DIDN'T THE SKELETON DANCE AT THE PARTY?

A. HE HAD NO BODY TO DANCE WITH....