

Hello everybody,

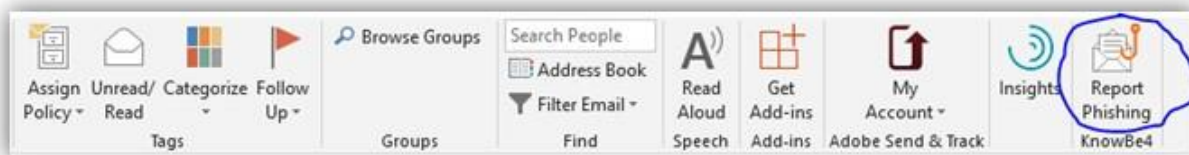
October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. I'm sure many of you are already aware of the importance of cybersecurity following the serious (but ultimately unsuccessful) cyber threat to state government earlier this month. That this happened in this month gives us a perfect opportunity to honor cybersecurity awareness. Here are three tips we should all keep in mind when it comes to cybersecurity:

Understand your online presence. What websites or devices have access to your location and personal information? Ask yourself: is it really necessary that this device or app has this access? The more you limit and control your online presence, the safer you can be.

How secure is your online access? Be vigilant when protecting yourself online! For example, many websites, including Facebook, allow you to enable *multi-factor authentication*, which provides an additional way for you to securely sign into a website or app. This would make it harder for somebody to access your account.

Remember - It's also good practice to not have the same password for every website or app. *Diversify your passwords* to help stay secure!

Always be cautious of unknown links and documents. If an email or email attachment looks sketchy and/or comes from someone you don't recognize, don't open it! Hackers are getting more and more creative. As we found in the recent incident, hackers tried to send email attachments to state employees that looked legitimate but were actually loaded with viruses. If you see a message like that, report it as spam.



Thank you for staying mindful of this ever-present threat. Remaining vigilant with cybersecurity will ensure Maine and its people are as safe as possible. If you have any more questions about how to be safe online, please contact [John Scott](#) at the Office of Information Technology.

Sincerely,

Kirsten LC Figueroa
Commissioner