Stay Cyber-Safe This Holiday Season

Securing our digital environment during the holiday season is critical to prevent cyber threats and protect sensitive information. Here are some important cybersecurity holiday tips:

**Vishing Awareness:**
Watch out for voice phishing over phone calls. If you receive an unsolicited call asking for personal or financial information, hang up and contact the organization directly to verify.

**Phishing Awareness:**
Stay vigilant against phishing attempts, especially during the holiday season. Cybercriminals may exploit the festive theme offering amazing deals or claiming to be from popular retailers.

**Smishing Awareness:**
Smishing or SMS phishing is on the rise. Be aware of deceptive text messages that tempt you with holiday offers or delivery services. Remember legitimate organizations will not ask for sensitive information.

**Software Updates on Computers and Smartphones:**
Keep your operating systems, antivirus software, and applications on your home computers/Smartphones up to date with the latest security patches.

**Password Management:**
Use strong, unique passwords to secure your online services and accounts. Regularly update passwords for critical accounts. Avoid easily guessable passwords.

**Malvertising:**
Some advertisements may have embedded malware. Be cautious when clicking on ads, even on reputable sites.

**Social Media:**
Be cautious about sharing personal or professional information on social media, as cybercriminals may use this information for targeted attacks.

**Backup Important Data:**
Backup important data before the holiday break.

**Physical Security:**
Secure your physical workspace, including locking offices and securing equipment.

**Device Security:**
Make sure you enable screen locks and passwords on devices, including laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Report lost or stolen devices promptly to our Alamo Colleges Police Department: (210) 485-0099.

**Remote/Travel Security:**
Use secure Wi-Fi connections, if possible, a VPN for accessing College or sensitive personal resources.

**Incident Reporting:**
It is important to report any suspicious activity or security incidents promptly to Office of Technology Services (210) 486-0777 or Alamo Colleges Police Department (210) 485-0099. Forward Suspicious Emails as an original Outlook Attachment to phishing_abuse@alamo.edu.

For additional technology support information or IT security tips contact Alamo Colleges ITS Helpdesk (210) 485-0555 or San Antonio College OTS Helpdesk (210) 486-0777.