Protecting yourself from AI Scams

Thou shalt not:
1. Succumb to pressure to act now.
2. Share personal data when contacted.
3. Pursue unsolicited opportunities.
4. Download unverified AI utilities.
5. Try to outsmart AI.

Thou shalt:
1. Keep up with the news.
2. Limit sharing in social media.
3. Remain aware, remain vigilant.
4. Independently verify before acting.
5. Trust your gut.

Phishing
- Tricking or scaring you into taking action including sharing personal information.

Phishing avoidance
- Don’t click on a link or call a number displayed
- Contact the company or organization directly
- Don’t give out information when called!
- If you are phished, don’t ignore, take action!
Cyber warfare 2023

- **Russia** may respond to our economic sanctions with a cyberattack.
- **China** may use cyber to respond conflicts in the South China Sea.
- **Iran** has yet to avenge the killing of Qasem Soleimani.
- **North Korea** is unpredictable and successfully attacked Sony Pictures for “The Interview”.

Cyber warfare readiness

- Be prepared for short-term outages.
- Keep one or two week’s cash on hand.
- Back up your data locally and in the cloud.
- Use strong and varied passwords.
Software Fixes

If experiencing a computer problem like a function no longer working, a page that you cannot access, a website that is acting strangely, or a program that is frozen, one of the following fixes may resolve the problem.

1. Close unneeded windows
2. Clear the cache
3. Close the browser and open a different one
4. Force a frozen application to close
5. Restart your PC
6. Clear your cookies
7. Run a virus scan
8. Reinstall an application that is acting funky
9. Clear blocking of selected pop-ups

Check Hal’s articles on Practicing Safe Computing at https://tinyurl.com/SafeComputingArticles. A new article is added each month.

For more on these 9 fixes, see “#61 Ten Software Fixes” at the above link (see the article for the 10th “fix”).
Contingency Planning

Bad things happen

😊 Disruptions and disasters will happen
😊 Data will be lost, corrupted, or inaccessible
😊 Computers will fail, partially or entirely
😊 Networks will fail, denying access

Things to do

✔ Back up your data locally and in the cloud
✔ Consider having a backup laptop or tablet
✔ Download a 2nd browser (Firefox, Edge, Tor)
✔ Have an alternate driving app in your auto (maps?)
✔ Copy your cloud-based passwords locally
✔ Practice using your phone’s hot spot
✔ Have alternate phone #’s and emails
✔ Arrange with a distant person to relay calls
✔ Identify an alternate place for family to gather
✔ Consider keeping your land line or VoIP phone

For more, see “#72 Contingency Planning” at