TASFAA General Session: Cyber Security Tips



1)      Think before you click on a link or open an attachment, become a human firewall and question every email.

2)      Intrusion Detection Systems are a must but they will not stop everything as virus writers write in excess of 50,000 new viruses a day.

3)      Separate passwords for mission critical accounts.

4)      Strong passwords need to be longer than twelve characters in length with capital and lower case letters, numbers and a special symbol and NO dictionary words.  Think passphrase instead of password. 

5)      Updated operating systems are a must as Microsoft doesn’t support XP anymore.

6)      Patch your system, Microsoft updates, java and adobe.  [www.secunia.com](http://www.secunia.com/)

7)      Multifactor authentication is a must on Facebook, LinkedIn, Outlook 365, Gmail, LogMeIn, VPNs and financial accounts when offered. [www.twofactorauth.org](http://www.twofactorauth.org)

8)      Consider a separate computer for critical business functions.  If you can access your client records on a computer that is used for Facebook and personal web surfing you are putting yourself at risk.  If you are gaining remote access to your company and you are using a home computer that you share with your kids, you are putting your organization at great risk.

9)      Do not surf the Internet as the Administrator on a computer. If you purchase a computer and you are the only user, chances are you are the administrator.  Go to the control panel and create a new profile and give it administrator access and change your profile to regular user.

10)  Back up your mission critical files on a daily basis.  There have been numerous cases of ransomware that turns a company’s critical data into useless information unless you send $500 in bitcoin to a bad guy in Eastern Europe.

11) Have a plan for your organization, <https://transition.fcc.gov/cyber/cyberplanner.pdf>

12) Practice smart online banking <http://krebsonsecurity.com/online-banking-best-practices-for-businesses/>

13) Don't store your password in the browser, it’s the same as leaving your keys in the car for ease and convenience.

14) If you can access your information in the cloud and all you have is a password, be prepared for the info to be stolen.  Use multifactor.

15) Once the bad guys get your stuff.......it’s usually too late.

16) You need to have a strong password for your smart phone and if you are using an Android, consider an intrusion security suite.