

# Security Awareness Training

Essential cybersecurity knowledge for protecting your organization and personal data

CSNP TRAINING PROGRAM

# Why Security Matters

95%

Human Error

Percentage of cybersecurity breaches caused by human mistakes

\$4.45M

Average Cost

Average cost of a data breach in 2023

277

Days to Identify

Average time to identify and contain a breach

Every employee plays a critical role in protecting organizational data, client information, and business continuity. Security awareness isn't just IT's responsibility—it's everyone's.

# Common Cyber Threats



## Phishing

Deceptive emails designed to steal credentials or install malware



## Malware

Malicious software including ransomware, spyware, and trojans



## Social Engineering

Manipulation tactics to trick people into revealing sensitive information



## Weak Passwords

Easy-to-guess credentials that provide unauthorized access

# Understanding Phishing Attacks

## What is Phishing?

Phishing is a fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information by disguising as a trustworthy entity in electronic communications.

## Common Tactics

- Urgent or threatening language
- Requests for personal information
- Suspicious links or attachments
- Too-good-to-be-true offers
- Impersonating trusted brands



# Real Phishing Examples

1

## Fake IT Department

"Your password will expire in 24 hours. Click here to update immediately or your account will be locked."

**Red flags:** Urgency, suspicious link, IT departments don't request credentials via email

2

## CEO Impersonation

"This is urgent. I need you to purchase gift cards for a client meeting. Reply with confirmation ASAP."

**Red flags:** Unusual request, pressure tactics, asks for immediate action outside normal channels

3

## Package Delivery Scam

"Your package couldn't be delivered. Click to reschedule delivery and verify your address."

**Red flags:** Unexpected delivery, suspicious link, requests personal information





# Password Security Fundamentals



## Your First Line of Defense

Passwords protect access to sensitive systems, data, and communications. Weak passwords are like leaving your office door unlocked overnight.



## The High Cost of Compromise

81% of data breaches involve weak or stolen passwords. Once compromised, attackers can access email, financial systems, and confidential information.

# Password Best Practices

01

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## Use Strong, Unique Passwords

Create passwords with at least 12 characters combining uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and symbols. Never reuse passwords across accounts.

02

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## Enable Multi-Factor Authentication

Add an extra security layer requiring a second form of verification beyond your password, such as a code sent to your phone.

03

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## Use a Password Manager

Store passwords securely in encrypted password managers like Bitwarden, 1Password, or LastPass instead of writing them down or reusing them.

04

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## Change Compromised Passwords Immediately

If you suspect a password has been compromised or appears in a data breach, change it immediately and review account activity.

# Social Engineering Tactics

## What is Social Engineering?

Psychological manipulation techniques that exploit human trust and behavior to gain unauthorized access to information or systems.

## Common Techniques

**Pretexting:** Creating false scenarios to extract information

**Baiting:** Offering something enticing to install malware

**Tailgating:** Following authorized persons into restricted areas

**Quid pro quo:** Offering services in exchange for information

## Defense Strategy

**Verify, verify, verify.** Always confirm requests through official channels, especially for sensitive information or unusual requests. Trust your instincts—if something feels off, it probably is.



# Physical Security Matters

## Secure Workspaces

Lock doors and cabinets containing sensitive materials.  
Never prop open secured doors or share access codes with unauthorized individuals.

## Lock Your Screen

Always lock your computer when stepping away, even briefly. Use Windows Key + L or Command + Control + Q as quick shortcuts.

## Visitor Management

Challenge unfamiliar people in secure areas. Ensure visitors sign in, wear badges, and are escorted when necessary.

## Protect Credentials

Never share access badges or passwords. Report lost or stolen badges immediately to security or IT.

# Mobile Device Security



## Enable Screen Locks

Use PIN, password, fingerprint, or face recognition on all devices



## Keep Updated

Install security updates and patches promptly to fix vulnerabilities



## Vet Applications

Only download apps from official stores and review permissions carefully



## Enable Remote Wipe

Configure ability to remotely erase data if device is lost or stolen

# Public WiFi Risks

## The Dangers of Open Networks

Public WiFi networks at coffee shops, airports, and hotels are convenient but dangerous. Attackers can intercept unencrypted data, set up fake networks, or deploy man-in-the-middle attacks.

## Safe Practices

- Avoid accessing sensitive accounts or financial information
- Use a VPN to encrypt your internet connection
- Verify network names with staff before connecting
- Disable automatic WiFi connections
- Use your mobile hotspot when possible
- Ensure websites use HTTPS encryption



# Data Protection Principles

## Classify Information

Understand what data is public, internal, confidential, or restricted. Handle each classification appropriately based on organizational policies.

## Encrypt Sensitive Data

Use encryption for sensitive files, especially when storing on portable devices or transmitting via email or cloud services.

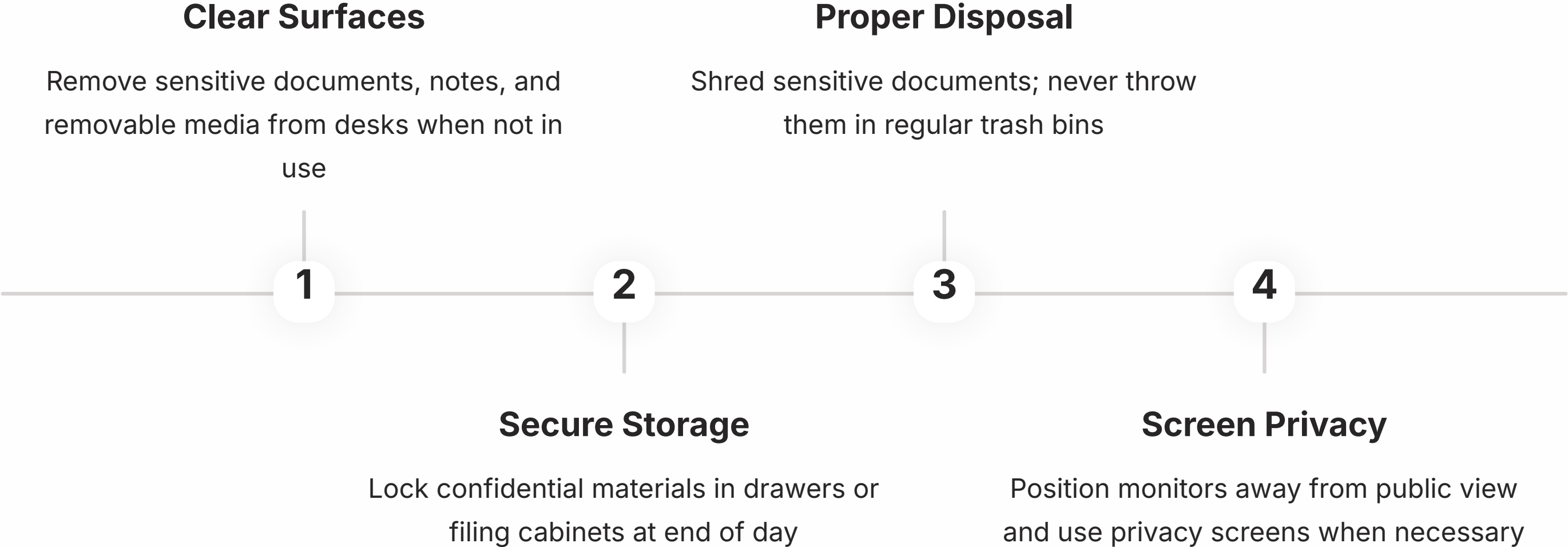
## Minimize Data Collection

Only collect and retain data necessary for business purposes. Securely dispose of information when no longer needed.

## Control Access

Implement least-privilege access—people should only access data required for their role. Review permissions regularly.

# Clean Desk Policy



**Why it matters:** A clean desk policy prevents unauthorized access to sensitive information, protects client confidentiality, and demonstrates professional security practices.



# Incident Reporting



## Recognize the Incident

Suspicious emails, unexpected system behavior, lost devices, unauthorized access attempts, or potential data breaches



## Stop and Contain

Disconnect from network if compromised, don't click suspicious links, preserve evidence, and prevent further damage



## Report Immediately

Contact IT security team, provide detailed information about what happened, when, and what systems were affected



## Document Everything

Record timeline of events, screenshots, error messages, and any actions taken for investigation purposes





# Remote Work Security

## Secure Your Home Network

Change default router passwords, enable WPA3 encryption, keep firmware updated, and use a separate network for work devices when possible.

## Create a Private Workspace

Work in areas where screens aren't visible to family members or through windows. Be mindful of background visuals during video calls.

## Use Company-Approved Tools

Only use authorized software, cloud services, and communication platforms. Don't use personal accounts for work purposes.

## Maintain Device Security

Keep work and personal activities separate, use VPN for company network access, and ensure anti-virus software is active and updated.

KNOWLEDGE CHECK

# Security Awareness Quiz

Test your knowledge with these scenarios. Think carefully about the best response in each situation.



## Question 1

You receive an urgent email from your "CEO" requesting an immediate wire transfer. The email address looks slightly off. What should you do?



## Question 2

A visitor says they're from IT and need your password to "fix your computer remotely." What's the appropriate response?



## Question 3

You find a USB drive labeled "Salary Information" in the parking lot. What should you do with it?

# Quiz Answers

1

## Verify Through Official Channels

**Correct action:** Never act on urgent financial requests via email alone. Contact the CEO directly using a known phone number or communication method. This is a classic CEO fraud phishing attempt.

2

## Refuse and Report

**Correct action:** IT departments never ask for passwords. Politely refuse, verify their identity with your IT department, and report the incident immediately. This is social engineering.

3

## Don't Plug It In

**Correct action:** Turn it in to security without connecting it to any computer. This could be a "baiting" attack with malware designed to infect systems when plugged in.

# Key Takeaways

## Security is Everyone's Responsibility

Every employee is a critical line of defense. Your awareness and actions protect the entire organization from cyber threats and data breaches.

## Follow Best Practices Consistently

Strong passwords, locked screens, secure devices, and proper data handling should become automatic habits in your daily workflow.

## Stay Vigilant and Skeptical

Question unusual requests, verify identities, think before clicking, and trust your instincts. When in doubt, report it.

## Report Incidents Immediately

Quick reporting enables fast response, minimizes damage, and protects others. No incident is too small to report.

# Additional Resources

## Continuous Learning

Cybersecurity threats evolve constantly. Stay informed and refresh your knowledge regularly through these resources:

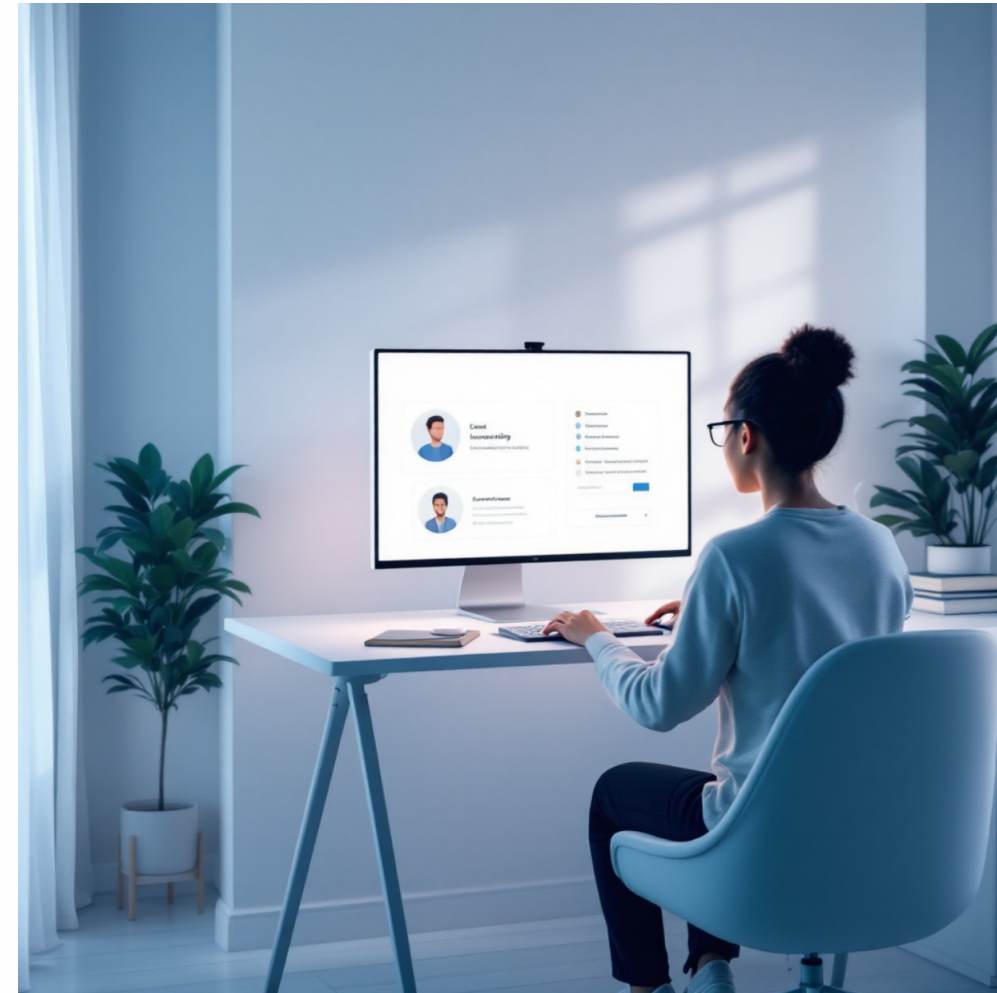
**CSNP Resource Library:** [csnp.org/resources](https://csnp.org/resources)

**Training Materials:** Interactive modules and guides

**Security Updates:** Monthly threat briefings

**Quick Reference Guides:** Downloadable checklists

**IT Support:** Contact your security team anytime



**Remember:** This training is just the beginning. Apply these principles daily, stay curious about emerging threats, and never hesitate to ask questions or report concerns.





# About CSNP

*Making cybersecurity knowledge accessible to everyone through education, community, and practical resources.*

## Our Programs

- Business & Non-Profit Security
- Family Cybersecurity
- Kids Safety Online
- Senior Digital Safety
- Women's Security Awareness
- Resources for Parents & Educators

## Everything is Free

All CSNP training, resources, and support materials are provided at no cost. We believe cybersecurity education should be accessible to organizations and individuals of all sizes.

## Get Started Today

**Website:** [csnp.org](https://csnp.org)

**Resources:** [csnp.org/resources](https://csnp.org/resources)

Join our community and access comprehensive cybersecurity education tailored to your needs.