Cyber Aware Cougs play an important role in information security. Evaluate the following situations and find out how cyber security savvy you are!  *(Answers on reverse.)*

1. You receive an email from wsu.its@yahoo.com with the subject line: Sign up for Your Windows 10 Update Today, and in order to receive the update, you must sign up for it by following the link embedded in a picture that says “Click Here.”

   What should you do?
   a. Sign up for the update.
   b. Forward it to abuse@wsu.edu, and do not respond to the email.
   c. Ask your coworkers if they signed up, and if they haven’t, forward them the email.

2. You log onto your computer and receive notifications for 8 programs/applications that need to be updated.

   What do you do?
   a. Update them.
   b. Email tech-support about updating them.
   c. Ignore the notifications.

3. On your break, you decide to scroll through Facebook. It’s fine because Facebook is safe from spyware, malware, and other online threats. *(True or False)*

   a. True
   b. False

4. When it comes to your passwords, the harder the better, even so hard that you’ll probably forget them, yourself! *(True or False)*

   a. True
   b. False

5. Since older applications and operating systems were made before the most current viruses, it’s safer to use older equipment, older operating systems, and old programs. *(True or False)*

   a. True
   b. False

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, coordinated by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in a month-long effort to engage the general public in awareness about what they can do to improve their cyber security. WSU Information Technology Network Security teams from every campus are working hard to develop cyber aware Cougs.

Practicing strong cyber security habits is essential to protecting WSU’s assets and data within the University’s information systems as well as your own personal devices, assets, and information on the Internet. Allowing threats to pass through can lead to irreversible harm. Though no person is solely responsible for keeping the Internet safe, everyone maintaining a secure Internet presence ensures a vastly safer cyber environment for others.

Today, lives pulse with digital signals, and opportunities to post more aspects of our personal lives online is pervasive. Waking up and checking texts and emails, checking in on Facebook, streaming music in the shower, researching data on the Internet at work, checking finances on smartphone banking apps, and reading simple blogging websites is commonplace in daily lives. All of these access data through the Internet, a very prominent portion of our network infrastructure. This can have critical effects not just for the individuals accessing the data, but for everyone else they connect with as well.
Cyber Aware Tips

October is Cyber Security Awareness month and WSU Spokane Information Technology Services wants to stress that it takes everyone within the WSU community to protect data and prevent cyber-attacks.

- **Click intelligently** – Malicious emails can put your data at risk. Don’t click links or download attachments from untrusted or unexpected emails.
- **Apply updates** – Cyber attackers often leverage out-of-date software to gain access to systems. Reduce your risk by keeping software on your devices current. Work with the Technical Support Center to insure timely updates.
- **Keep passwords strong and fresh** – A longer password is a stronger password. Create strong passwords for your accounts. Having a strong password and resetting it frequently will help keep your information safe.
- **Basic antivirus software** is free and available to all Microsoft users via Security Essentials for Windows 7 users and Windows Defender for Windows 10 users.
- **The Technical Support Center** offers support and education to help users install and manage personal antivirus software and avoid common security threats, such as email phishing.

If you have any questions, please contact the **Technical Support Center** at spok.it.help@wsu.edu or 358.7748 or stop by the TSC in CCRS 265.

Answers to quiz on reverse:

1. **b**: Forward it to abuse@wsu.edu and do not respond to the email. All emails from WSU will be from an email address ending in @wsu.edu, and will never say “click here.”
2. **a**: Update them. A computer running with the latest operating system, application versions, software, web-browsers, and anti-virus protection is known as “clean machine” and is better at protecting itself from viruses and malware.
3. **b**: False. Facebook, a very trusted site, is safer than some sites, but no site can be 100% safe. Clicking on links and switching into other apps from Facebook can be dangerous.
4. **b**: False. Your passwords should be unique to you so you can get into your accounts, but others cannot. Use the rule: Hard to Guess, Easy to Remember.
5. **b**: False. Older equipment and operating systems will not be as good at fighting current/new viruses than new machines.

Results:

**0-1 Correct: Novice.** It’s ok to be new to technology, but you should look into ways to protect yourself! Visit staysafeonline.org, security.wsu.edu, and spokane.wsu.edu/its/tech-support to learn more about how you can protect yourself, your information, and your computer from threats.

**2-3 Correct: Apprentice.** You’re off to a great start with your cyber security, but should always be vigilant in looking for new ways to protect yourself and information.

**4-5 Correct: Expert.** Congratulations! You’re doing a great job at protecting yourself and information.