



# CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2023



*Dear GSU Community,*

As we continue to observe Information Security Awareness Month, I want to draw attention to our mobile devices. These gadgets, whether smartphones or tablets, have become indispensable to our daily lives.

### **Keep Mobile Devices Updated**

Dismissing notifications to update your device's software is easy, however these updates often contain patches for known vulnerabilities. Make it a habit to keep your devices updated with the latest software versions.

### **Dangers of Downloading from Unverified Sources**

It's crucial to download apps only from reputable sources. Malicious apps can compromise your device's security and steal personal data. Always double-check app permissions and reviews before downloading.

### **The Rise of Malicious QR Codes**

Unknown or suspicious QR codes can lead you to malicious websites or download harmful software. Always ensure the legitimacy of a QR code before scanning, especially if its source is unknown.

### **Using Strong Passcodes**

A passcode is an effective barrier against unauthorized access. Follow these guidelines to ensure optimal security:

- Opt for a passcode that's at least six digits long. Alphanumeric combinations, where possible, add extra layers of security.
- Steer clear of easily guessable sequences like "123456" or "abcdef."
- Update your passcode periodically and avoid sharing it. Even temporary access can lead to vulnerabilities.

### **Remote Wipe Capabilities**

*For College-Owned Devices:*

Should your college-provided device get lost or compromised, be aware that the university can remotely wipe it to protect sensitive data. This action ensures our collective digital safety.

*For Personal Devices:*

Apple Devices: The "Find My" feature through iCloud allows you to track, lock, or erase your device remotely. Ensure its enabled and familiarize yourself with its functions.

Android Devices: Android's "Find My Device" service offers similar protective measures. Regularly check its activation status on your device.

### **Additional Best Practices**

Utilize biometric features like fingerprint or facial recognition for added security. Also, back up your device data securely and avoid using public Wi-Fi networks without a VPN, to prevent exposing your data.

Stay vigilant, stay informed, and remember - our knowledge and practices are our strongest assets in digital security.

Warm regards,  
Jay Ellis  
CIO

Grambling State University  
Information Technology Center  
Jacob T Stewart Hall | Room 139  
403 Main Street | Box 4220 | Grambling, LA 71245  
[itc@gram.edu](mailto:itc@gram.edu)