



News Release



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For Immediate Release

October 19, 2016

Out with the Old, In with the New

What to do with old and new devices to be cyber safe?

(MADISON) – Technology improves so quickly that many of us are upgrading our computers and mobile devices at an ever increasing pace. But what to do with those old devices and how to make sure your new ones are safe?

Old Device: Your old computer or laptop probably has a lot of personal information such as passwords, financial account information and other important documents. You don't want that critical information falling into the wrong hands.

- **Save Important Files:** Either back up your files to an external hard drive or transfer them to your new computer.
- **Secure Your Hard Drive:** You have two options to stop the information left on your hard drive from being accessed. You can clear your hard drive by installing software to wipe out information. This is a good option if you're planning on donating or giving away your computer. However, to be completely safe you should physically remove your hard drive and destroy it. It may sound a little extreme but cyber security officials recommend drilling several holes in the hard drive or hitting it with a hammer. Physically destroying the hard drive prevents anyone from retrieving your information.

New Device: Your new personal computer or laptop needs to be protected.

- **Use Antivirus:** Installing antivirus software is an important layer of protection. Some people believe you can only get malicious software by downloading suspicious files or visiting the wrong website. However, your computer could get infected by visiting a trusted website. Remember, no antivirus program is perfect and be careful about the files you download.
- **Keep Your Software Updated:** Software companies regularly release security patches. It's important to install updates as soon as possible after they are available. Leave Windows set to automatically update, or at least set it to alert you to new updates and install them quickly.

This October, ReadyWisconsin will highlight efforts to keep everyone in Wisconsin safe from cybercrime. Visit <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov> for more information. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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