Stay One Step Ahead: Master the Essentials of Cybersecurity Readiness!

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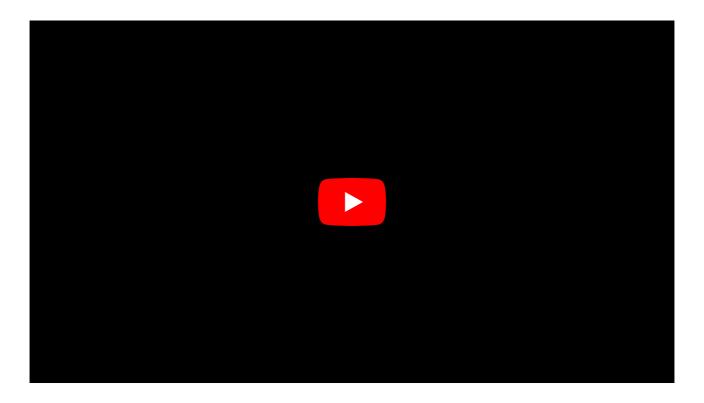
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From data breaches to phishing scams, cybercrime is on the rise, and it's time to arm yourself with the knowledge and tools to stay safe in the digital world. Recently, Dave Lewis, Global Advisory Chief Information Security Officer at Cisco Security, conducted a satellite media tour to share tips and tricks to outsmart cyber criminals and stay safe online.

A video accompanying this announcement is available at: **https://youtu.be/VDTqR8LqwOM**

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After surveying over **6,700 cybersecurity leaders worldwide**, Cisco found that less than **15%** of companies were 'Mature' enough (or considered to have advanced enough security) to defend against modern cybersecurity risks, even though **82%** of respondents said they expect a cybersecurity incident to disrupt their business in the next two years. While this may not seem to directly impact consumers at first, the aftermath can take a large toll on the public, causing emails, credit cards and personal information to be leaked on the internet.

Here are some tips that Lewis shared:

· **Be a safe shopper**:

    o Never use a debit card, use a credit card, I like one specifically for online purchases.

    o Don't save your personal or credit card information on any company site – If they company doesn't have it, the company can't lose it, and the criminals can't steal it.

    o Closely watch your online accounts.

· **Build cyber street smarts - Criminals will use information from a breach against you**:

    o Evaluate the company before sharing personal information.

    o Only share essential information with any company or third-party.

    o Know the signs of a scam - If it seems too good to be true, if there's too much pressure.

· **Personal resilience – Expect breaches:**

    o Use multi-factor on all accounts.

    o Use separate email addresses and credit cards – our phones may make this easier.

    o Talk about it when it happens – empathy and compassion, kinder than necessary.

According to Cisco, **60%** of respondents said they had a cybersecurity incident in the last year, which cost **41%** of organizations affected **at least $500,000**. While forward-looking businesses are investing in resilience and focused on improving their ability to defend against and minimize the impact of an attack, consumers also must take an active role in protecting their own information, especially as breaches become more and more inevitable.

To learn more about this and Cisco's Cybersecurity Readiness Index, visit: **cisco.com/go/readinessindex**

BIO:
Dave Lewis is a Global Advisory CISO at Cisco Security. He has 25 years of experience in IT security operations and management including a decade dealing with critical infrastructure security. He is the founder of the security site Liquidmatrix Security Digest and writes columns for Daily Swig, Forbes and several other publications.

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