THE INFORMANT

NETWORKS & OPERATIONS; ENTERPRISE APPLICATION; SERVICE DELIVERY & SECURITY SERVICES

JANUARY 2018
TIPS & TRICKS:

IF YOU NEED IN-PERSON TECH SUPPORT, THE CWU SERVICE DESK IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 7:00AM TO 8:00PM; AND FRIDAY 8:00AM TO 5:00PM.
NEW YEAR; NEW PASSWORD

Passwords have become the ubiquitous identifier for making sure you are whom you claim to be - however, many people do not have the password strength enough to keep the unsavory at bay. At this point in the game, keeping 'qwerty123' as a password is not going to cut it, especially if you care about the safety of your personal information. Here are a few tips for making sure that your passwords are secure and that you are the only one who will be able to access your accounts:

**CHOOSE A WORD SEQUENCE**

You do not need to have ‘3RwOP#e489*plk66’ as a password to have a safe password – many security experts recommend having a memorable string of words that’ll help you login to your account. A password like “carnitaspeacockdollars” or “bleachalaskacinema” is easy for you to remember, and is incredibly difficult for password cracking software to get into.

**AVOID PEDESTRIAN PASSCODES**

Even if you’re not willing to give up your steady password, know the accounts with the most common passwords are the ones most likely to be hacked into by people who are not acting in your best interests. Avoid common passwords, such as ‘123456’; ‘qwerty’; and ‘password’. More than 50 percent of people use the top 25 passwords; so by diversifying yourself outside of these 25, you’re taking a step in the right direction.

**DIVERSIFY YOUR PASSWORDS**

Make sure to use a unique password for each of your important logins – your bank account should have a different password than your Twitter account, which should have a different password for your email, and so forth. This makes sure that if someone has your password for one account, they aren’t able to easily get into the others.

Another good tip is to keep a general structure of password – for example, using a word and then adding a symbol after it; and then changing the word you use.

Here’s an example:
SWEEt#476839#SWEET;
ZIPPER#476839#ZIPPER;
BOOGLe#476839#BOOGLe. This offers password diversity, but also makes it easy for you to remember how to login to your accounts.
2017 was a big year for CWU's Information Services department - between maintaining the multiple channels of student-to-school online communication, the continued exposure of emerging technology to students and faculty, the development of in-house software programs, and facilitating comprehensive technology services to CWU stakeholders, we have launched multiple projects to ensure that CWU students, staff and faculty are able to most effectively utilize technology in their educational pursuits.

Here are just a few highlights of Information Services in 2017:

- **February**: Movezilla begins
- **March**: IS gets a new VPO
- **April**: Updates to MyCWU implemented
- **June/July**: IS reorganized
- **July**: Data warehouse project begins
- **September**: Stamp completed
- **September**: Caps+ rolled out
- **December**: Data center plan complete
WHICH MICROSOFT 365 PRODUCT SHOULD I USE?

- **Teams**
  - I need to communicate and share documents with team members.

- **SharePoint**
  - I need to integrate other office 365 tools to a cohesive, online format.

- **Planner**
  - I need a place to keep all of my schedules, teams, tasks, and documents.

- **Yammer**
  - You want to freely communicate within the organization.

- **Office 365 Group**
  - I need to merge multiple group platforms and work as a cohesive identity.

- **OneNote**
  - I need to take notes during a class or meeting.

- **Skype**
  - I need to have a video call with someone or a group.

- **PowerApps**
  - I need to an application for your organization's own use.

- **Sway**
  - I need to create a multimedia presentation or website.

- **OneDrive**
  - I need a cloud-based service to help me store and access my files.

- **Forms**
  - I need a service to share and stream video.

- **Stream**
  - I need a service to share and stream video.
STUDENT CORNER:  
TECH TO HELP YOU STICK WITH RESOLUTIONS!

BY: HANNAH COTTLE

When the New Year rolls around, there’s always the best intentions and sparkling expectations - gyms are a little fuller, vitamins and health foods fly off store shelves, resolutions have been made to take a more proactive approach towards life. Students primarily take the reins in three departments: their personal health, their relationships with the people around them, and their own academic development. Here are a few pieces of technology that can help in keeping up those treasured resolutions:

MAKE THE GYM FUN

One of the biggest tips for making going to the gym palatable is to make it fun for yourself. Whether that means using your texting app, or Snapchat to encourage friends to go with you; or listening to music on your phone while you’re on the treadmill, tech can make moving enjoyable. Especially with award season, catching up on the latest of TV series and movies on streaming services while exercising is a route to make your workout better. The Amazon Prime app has original series such as The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel; or critically acclaimed movies such as The Big Sick. Netflix and Hulu are other great options - and if you have a student Spotify account, you can get a Hulu account, free.

CALL MOM AND DAD

It’s simple: calling your parents will make their day. So use the “phone” or “facetime” app to stay in touch with them -and make it a point to (grudgingly) post a few photos a month on Facebook for your not-so-tech-savvy family members to see your daily life while away at school. I know Instagram is more fun, but taking the time to use the social media spaces your family members are using can be a highlight of their week.

SAVE DIFFERENTLY

It’s hard to save – not everyone is an expert in finance, especially college students who may be more inclined to snag a piece of pizza on their way back from the bar than save that $1.50 for a rainy day, which is where tech comes in. Apps such as Acorns or Qapital are apps aimed at young savers; and offer drastically different approaches to encouraging healthy financial budgeting among young people. Acorns acts by investing a small amount, rounded up to the next dollar, from every credit or debit card purchase you make. Qapital acts more as a bank, but structured for how young people save; so you have options when it comes to using technology to save money.
SOME NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

The following is from a 1937 edition of CWU’s newspaper, discussing students and their new years resolutions. It’s amazing how quickly some things change, and how others stay the same, 81 years later...

I resolve not to make a pest of myself by forever borrowing and begging material from my student friends – for soon I may find myself without friends as well materials.

I resolve to be honest with myself and with my professors in my preparation.

I resolve to make a new acquaintance at least every week and to make all who will my friends.

I resolve to give my best to my school life and to get the best out of it in return.

I resolve to ask permission if I wear my roommate’s socks if he happens to be about – but in any case I resolve to wear them.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

2/9 SPRING REGISTRATION BEGINS

2/14 VALENTINES DAY

2/19 PRESIDENTS DAY
OUR MISSION:

The mission of Information Services is to provide the information systems and services necessary for all departments to achieve their objectives and the objectives of the university, and to establish an information environment that embraces sustainability, stewardship and provides a comprehensive vision for the future.