

Tips on Cyber Security

Cybersecurity crimes are increasing, and clients need to be aware of how to prevent attacks

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month, and Pinnacle Bank want clients to know valuable tips and advice on how to be safe online. Pinnacle Bank encourages its clients to stay informed and become educated on how to prevent their financial information from being stolen and misused.

“Cybercriminals are on the prowl looking for unsuspecting victims online to hijack sensitive financial information,” said Bill Loving, ICBA chairman and president and CEO of Pendleton Community Bank, Franklin, W.Va. “The community banking industry as a whole needs to be aware of the increased risk of cybercrimes. It’s vital that we stay alert to protect our customers and financial institutions from these criminals.”

Valuable tips when it comes to taking proactive cyber security measures include:

- Be sure to use unique passwords for all financial online accounts. Never share your password, account number, PIN or answers to security questions.
- Do not save credit or debit card, banking account or routing numbers, or other financial information, on your computer, phone or tablet.
- Be careful about using a password on mobile devices. Be sure to set your devices to automatically lock after a selected period of time to ensure no one can access your smartphone, tablet or laptop.
- Do not provide your secure financial information over the phone or Internet if you are unsure of who is asking for it. Contact the bank directly by using the phone number on the back of your debit or credit card, or stop in your bank office to speak with someone in person. Remember, the bank will never contact or text you asking for personal or banking information. Assume any unsolicited text request is fraudulent.
- Be aware of the location of your mobile devices (smartphones, tablets) at all times. Only log on financial websites when you have a secure, safe and trusted Internet connection.

Contact Pinnacle Bank immediately if you think your online identity has been compromised. The sooner you alert proper authorities about suspicious activity, the sooner it can be resolved. If you have any questions about cyber crimes in general, our staff is here to provide answers.

For additional information about Cyber Security Awareness Month, visit Stay Safe Online’s website at <http://staysafeonline.org/ncsam/>.