Indian Computer Emergency Response Team
Department of Information Technology
Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
(Government of India)

CCAOI
Representing the ecosystem of Internet - Bharat Model

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As internet is becoming an integral part of our lives, it is important that we are aware of the threats we face in the Cyberspace. The need of the hour is to be aware and adequately equipped to protect ourselves online.

***Symantec** in their **2010 State of Enterprise Security** study released on 20th Dec 2010 reveals that **75% organizations experienced cyber attacks** and **42% organizations rate security as their top issue**, more than natural disasters, terrorism, and traditional crime combined. Cyber attacks cost enterprise businesses an average of $2 million per year, and are often very effective, according to the report.*

Gartner has forecasted that by 2015, online sabotages will become multi-modal and very damaging and that even a G-20 nation's critical infrastructure will be disrupted and damaged by such cyber attacks.

*Keeping this in view, with the support of **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Certin), Department of Information Technology, VeriSign India and Sify Technologies Ltd.** we are releasing the next edition of our fortnightly Security Newsletter where we try share a few **Good Security Habits.***

Good Security Habits

Sharing a few simple security habits you can adopt, that, if performed consistently, can help in reducing the chances that the information on your computer will be lost or corrupted.

Tips to minimize the access other people to your information

In the cyber world, as long as you are connected through your computer to a network, you are vulnerable to someone or something else accessing or corrupting your information. However, you can develop habits that can reduce such incidents happening dramatically.

- **Always lock your computer when you are away from it**. Locking your computer prevents another person from being able to simply sit down at your computer and access all of your information.
- **Disconnect your computer from the Internet when you are not using** since the likelihood becomes higher of your computer being attacked by attackers and viruses . If you want to always be online **ensure your firewalls are in place**.
- **Evaluate your security settings.** Most software offer many features that you can customize to meet your needs and requirements. Enabling certain features to increase convenience or functionality may leave you more vulnerable to being attacked. It is important to examine the settings, particularly the security settings, and select options that meet your needs without putting you at increased risk. If you install a patch or a new version of the software, or if you hear of something that might affect your settings, reevaluate your settings to make sure they are still appropriate.

Other Measures

Many times your computer might be at a threat from natural or technological causes. Although there is no way to control or prevent these problems, you can prepare for them and try to minimize the damage.

- **Protect your computer against power surges and brief outages.** Aside from providing outlets to plug in your computer and all of its peripherals, some power strips protect your computer against power surges. You need to

also take care of power surges or outages.. During a lightning storm or construction work that increases the odds of power surges, consider shutting your computer down and unplugging it from all power sources.

- **Back up all of your data.** Whether or not you take steps to protect yourself, there will always be a possibility that something will happen to destroy your data. You have probably already experienced this at least once— losing one or more files due to an accident, a virus or worm, a natural event, or a problem with your equipment. Regularly backing up your data on a CD or network reduces the stress and other negative consequences that result from losing important information. Determining how often to back up your data is a personal decision. If you are constantly adding or changing data, you may find weekly backups to be the best alternative; if your content rarely changes, you may decide that your backups do not need to be as frequent. You don't need to back up software that you own on Hard drive, CD-ROM or DVD-ROM—you can reinstall the software from the original media if necessary.

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