***What is information security***

***and how it is different from information technology?***

Hi, I'm Casey Turner, assistant director of information technology Sensei Enterprises. One of the questions we hear often is what is the difference between information technology and information security. There are many differences between the two, but they both complement each other very nicely. When we discuss information technology with our clients we are referring to the recommendations and installation of backup solutions, firewalls, servers, desktops and laptops, other networking based devices and even cabling. You’ll see information technologists install and configure email, antivirus, and malware protection. Information technologists are always keeping up-to-date with the latest technologies, which is necessary when working with technology that changes so rapidly. When you look closely at information security you'll realize there's more to information systems than just set up in configuration, installation and management of devices. You’ll see security policies and procedures, compliance requirements, physical security considerations as it relates to your building, office space and equipment locations. You’ll also see information security professionals assess and evaluate and monitor information systems for intrusions, inaccuracies with software platforms and weak passwords that users are using to gain access to critical company data. Here at Sensei you won't see our information security professionals reformatting a desktop computer to install windows seven professional operating system, you won't see them rushing out to your business to assist with your internet connection that went down or when your email servers on the freeze. These just aren't information security matters. They are information technology matters. Our information technologists will notice that you wrote your password on a sticky note and placed it on your monitor and say ‘Hey, that's probably not a good idea’ but they're not hired to worry about that. If you want your password to be the number six, your information technologists will explain to you that it's not a good idea to have such a weak password, but will configure it because you are the client. Information security experts will write a report based on their findings detailing the weak parts of your network security, physical security, policies and procedures, HIPAA and PCI compliance. They also recommend hardware and software solutions to further secure your environment. As you can see there are many differences between information technology and information security. We recommend you maintain a close relationship with your information technology provider and that at a minimum of twice a year have an information systems assessed and evaluated with your information security provider. Utilizing both services will ensure that you are running smoothly, productively and securely. I'm proud to say that Sensei offers both IT and InfoSec services for your business. We currently serve more than 200 clients in Virginia, Maryland and DC and would love to be your IT service and security provider.