

## *Cypurr Collective Cryptoparty* *BKPL Info Commons, 7/9/2017*

Safety (digital or not) is a community and personal worry that changes depending on who you are and what you want to protect, from who. Normally, we make plans for how to protect ourselves, but what about when something happens that we didn't plan for (unexplained computer behavior, a broken lock, an email from an old friend w/ an attached .doc)? These signs can be a good or bad, but how should we react? Especially since we want to balance the benefits of safety and convenience and the emotional drains of uncertainty and extra work.

This month, we'd like to talk about some possible "security indicator" scenarios, with some questions in mind:

- Who can each person turn to to get support and more information?
- What are some ways to "check" that something suspicious is going on?
- How should each person actually respond and what are some ways they can change their security plans?

(Thanks to the Tactical Tech Collective for this exercise.)

### Good Computer Hygiene

(These points will stay the same, but the software might change / grow outdated)

Update software regularly w/ security patches

Regular virus scans (altho antivirus uses yr data)

— AVG, Avast, Bitdefender

Use strong passwords / a password manager

— KeePass, LastPass

Protect your browser with script/ad blockers

— uBlock Origin, Privacy Badger

Connect to websites w/ a secure connection

— HTTPS Everywhere

### Resources

Security in a Box, [https:// securityinabox.org/](https://securityinabox.org/)

— step-by-step security guides for each operating system

Surveillance Self-Defense, [https:// ssd.eff.org/](https://ssd.eff.org/)

— explanation of different surveillance threat and the tools that defend against them

Prism Break, <https://prism-break.org/en/>

— free, open-source software

Cryptoparty, <https://www.cryptoparty.in/>

— meet-ups, crypto news



## *Security Indicator Scenarios*

I.

Jared only uses his new Windows computer to manage his business from home, check his Yahoo account emails, and keep in touch with family on Facebook. One day he notices his computer acting strangely. It has been getting slower, and he's noticed software he doesn't remember installing. He can't even browse Facebook without notifications and strange ads. He's sure it's nothing more than an inconvenience, but is worried about someone else getting access to his business documents, especially since he does not keep regular backups. His employees have been pressing him for a higher pay and one who studies computer science has joked about being able to "hack anybody". If they knew how much the business was making, he'd surely have a strike on his hands!

II.

Abby is an activist within the NYC community. She recently attended a protest, and she was with a group of people who marched down from Union Square to Times Square. During the march, she noticed her phone was starting to act funny: battery draining quickly, and eventually the phone just turned off, even though she still had battery left. During the march, she was kettled by the NYPD and detained. Her phone was taken from her by the police. She was not arrested, but when the police returned her phone after a long time, she noticed that the phone was now on and unlocked (she had previously set a long, numeric code on her phone). Abby is concerned that the police tampered with her phone, and may have either taken information or installed malware on it.

III.

Rachel and Danny have been dating on-and-off for the last few years, but finally decided to take the leap and get an apartment. They have had a bumpy relationship: Rachel once dumped Danny due to his overly jealous disposition. Rachel has noticed that when he's stressed, he starts to micromanage her life with questions like "Where are you going?", "Who are you texting?", "Who are you hanging out with?" They have discussed his tendency to become jealous, and he has promised to learn how to control his jealous feelings and to trust Rachel more.

After a few months of living together, Danny lost his job. Money was starting to become an issue, and Rachel noticed the early signs of Danny's jealousy rearing its head. Thankfully though, she also noticed that Danny was trying to take positive steps to curb how he talked to her, and so situations have not escalated to the same degree they used to. Around this time, Rachel's Android phone (that she bought only a few months ago) started to act up. Rachel hasn't worried too much about digital security before: she doesn't even use a password on her phone. But between Danny's unusually good behavior during this stressful time and her phone's wonkiness, Rachel is beginning to wonder if something happened to her phone.