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Computer Basics Course

Essay 22 – Security

1. Why is computer security important?
   * Keeping your computer secure is just as important as keeping your house, car, or other valuable items safe. Although what you are securing on the internet is not tangible if it falls in to the wrong hands it can be dangerous and catastrophic for your life. Information about you, bank accounts, passwords and the like, can all be stolen by criminals online. By being aware and smart about what information you divulge and to whom you divulge it to you can keep that data safe.
2. How can you use the data you’ve studied on this course to keep your work and personal information safe?
   * In this course keeping personal information that is on the internet safe and secure was emphasized. You can keep this information safe by being able to identify when an email might be a phishing scam, whether or not a website is secure, and whether or not a password is secure.
     1. A phishing scam will usually come from a source that you don’t recognize, but some are good at posing as a trusted source such as your bank. The main thing to look out for is that the email will most likely be asking you to divulge personal information or that email may have an attachment to it. Don’t click on any attachment that is not from a source that you are sure is trustworthy and never give out personal information through an email such as passwords and account numbers.
     2. A website is considered secure if the information that is transferred from your computer to theirs is encrypted. You can identify a secure website by looking for “http**s**” is the URL. The “**s**” stands for secure and means this website has been evaluated by a Certificate Authority and has been determined to be safe.
     3. A secure password should have a many characters including letters, numbers and even symbols. It should not contain personal information or words that can be found in the dictionary. This doesn’t mean it can mean something to you but it should be nonsensical to anyone else that might see it. Also, never share your passwords with others even loved ones can accidently reveal this information to those you should not have it.