

# Cyber Security Fact Sheet

- **Phishing scams are on the rise.** In first half of 2006, phishing emails sent out around the world increased by 81%, compared with the last half of 2005. Criminals particularly target senior citizens – the largest consumer group victimized by phishing scams last year was those over age 60. Recent studies have found, however, that most people overestimate their ability to recognize a fraudulent email message.
- **Social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace have soared in popularity.** MySpace boasts over 100 million accounts alone. But such sites make spamming, stalking, cyberbullying, and identity theft easier. Posting compromising information on them can also hurt people's chances when applying for jobs and school admission in the future. A new, fast-growing trend among corporate recruiters and school officials is to check such sites for improprieties as part of the entry process.
- **Identity theft is the nation's fastest growing crime.** Victims of identity theft spend on average \$500 and 30 hours resolving the problem. And in 2003, an estimated 10 million Americans became victims of ID theft.
- **Americans aren't doing everything they could be to protect themselves.** A 2005 study found that a startling 81% of home PCs in the U.S. lack at least one of the three critical protections: updated anti-virus software, spyware protection, and a secure firewall.

## Who's Watching? Cyber Security Awareness Road Show

A panel of police, financial service providers, parents, and students share techniques to protect yourself and your loved ones online. There will also be security-related giveaways and prizes! Admission is free.

<b>Mon 10/16</b>	7:00 - 8:30 pm	C-ville Performing Arts Center
<b>Wed 10/18</b>	12:00 - 1:30 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor, Newcomb Hall, U.Va.
<b>Wed 10/18</b>	7:00 - 8:30 pm	Dickinson Stage, PVCC

## Who's Watching? Cyber Security Awareness Website

Includes info on avoiding viruses, spyware and adware; using firewalls; making better passwords; safer online shopping; ensuring kids' safety online; and preventing ID theft. Also, daily security tips and short videos.

[www.WhosWatchingCharlottesville.org](http://www.WhosWatchingCharlottesville.org)

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## About the Initiative

"Who's Watching?" is presented in October as part of National Cyber Security Awareness Month. It's brought to you by a unique cross-sector partnership of local organizations:

- [University of Virginia](#)
- [UVA Community Credit Union](#)
- [Charlottesville City](#)
- [Albemarle County](#)
- [Charlottesville City Schools](#)
- [Albemarle County Public Schools](#)
- [Piedmont Virginia Community College](#)

**Who's really watching you online?** There's a false sense of security and anonymity on the Internet.

This campaign's goal is to educate people so they understand they are *not* anonymous when they're online. The Web has much to offer, but its many benefits don't come without risks.

If people know how to manage those risks, they can educate their loved ones, and the entire community will be safer.