



For Immediate Release

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October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

NW3C encourages computer users to guard against cyber dangers

RICHMOND, VA – The National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) reminds you that October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

National Cyber Security Awareness Month is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security. This year's theme *Stop. Think. Connect.* raises awareness among the American public about the need to strengthen cyber security—and to generate and communicate new approaches and strategies to help Americans increase their safety and security online.

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), a partnership of the FBI and NW3C, has received more than 200,000 complaints this year as of Sept. 15, with associated losses totaling well over \$300 million. IC3 has taken more than 1.5 million complaints since it began operation in 2000.

“Computers make our lives easier, but with that convenience comes responsibility,” NW3C Director Don Brackman said. “We are proud to join our friends at the Department of Homeland Security in promoting this important initiative. By acting responsibly, we can all do our part to fight cyber crime.”

NW3C recommends computer users take the following safety measures:

- Make sure that you have anti-virus software and firewalls installed, properly configured, and up-to-date. New threats are discovered every day, and keeping your software updated is one of the easier ways to protect yourself from an attack. Set your computer to automatically update for you.
- Update your operating system and critical program software. Software updates offer the latest protection against malicious activities. Turn on automatic updating if that feature is available.
- Back up key files. If you have important files stored on your computer, copy them onto a removable disc and store it in a safe place.

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ABOUT NW3C

Funded primarily by the Department of Justice through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, NW3C has been a leader in the fight against economic and high-tech crime for more than 30 years. For more information, please visit www.nw3c.org.