Purchasing items online, video chatting and storing confidential data online are few of the many risks that people take every day when using the internet. These actions make users more vulnerable to computer hackers and other cyber criminals. However, it can be prevented by becoming familiar with the dangers and taking action to not be one of the victims who suffer from cyber crimes. Currently, there is a case of stolen identity every second, according to the McAfee security advice center for online shoppers.

"...there is a case of stolen identity every second..."

Although thousands of people love shopping online, one must be aware of the consequences of providing credit card information. Websites that are not so well known have a higher risk for hackers to be able to get a hold of a customer’s credit card info. So it’s best to stick to the more “secure” websites with an SSL, Secured Socket Layer. Computer technician, Javier Escalante, pointed out. Visiting only SSL websites means that it has server authentication. It is also highly advised to stay away from the net sites and stick to the familiar retail store websites to avoid stolen credit card information.

Another common danger in the internet is identity theft; as there is the one out of four chance of being an online victim. Advertisement sites are the ones that tend to make access easier for computer hackers, since those sites that encourage on-line shopping for credit or chances to win thousands of dollars, trips, or cars make users give up personal information. They wisely refer to leave the Social Security Number box empty unless it’s mandatory. Most of the time, computer viruses come from sketchy sites. Those viruses allow hackers to easily get a hold of one’s personal data in their computer while flooding the screen with tons of pop-ups that can’t be closed. In cases like these, it’s best to try to get the computer fixed by a computer technician right away. Yet, this could be prevented by not clicking on ads or downloading anything free. Also, it’s recommended to buy anti-virus software’s, or choose that protect one’s identity like McAfee software, which can be purchased directly through the website. However, one can take caution simply by being careful on not providing personal information.

Math teacher, Alvaro Holguin, mentioned “You never know who’s behind the other side of the screen and who may have bad intentions and will want to take advantage of you, especially minors, that is why parental supervision is advised. Parental advice is highly recommended when kids or teenagers are shopping online as they are an easier target. Although the internet becomes a more dangerous place as technology advances, it’s never too late for one to take action and stay protected.

Pernatal advice is highly necessary for their act together, make it right!

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