

## Cybersecurity Tip of The Week- 1/31/18

### ***Busting Myths: Green is A Safety Color***

*If you've made resolutions for 2018, you're not the only one. Cyber-schemers and hackers seem to have resolved to use newer and trickier tactics for manipulating and taking advantage of people. Unlike those of us who might already be struggling to stick with our new resolutions, cyber criminals are adamantly sticking to their goals.*

*Cyber criminals are taking extra steps to trick those on the Internet or surfing the web. One method you can expect to see more of in 2018 includes cyber criminals capitalizing on common knowledge Internet safety tips that are actually myths.*

*Many people are told to look for details on a web page that "guarantee" it's a safe page, which can be misleading. One of these details is a green lock icon in the upper left-hand corner of your browser. This means the website is secure to use, right? This is a myth. The "secure" part of HTTPS sites probably doesn't mean what you think.*

*Imagine you are mailing payment to someone you owe money. You will likely send the mail through a vetted, secure mail service, such as the United States Postal Service. Although this method of communication is safe, it does not guarantee the recipient receiving the money is legitimate. The person you're sending money to could be a scam artist. Sending information to an HTTPS web page can be thought of the same way. HTTPS sites are considered "secure" sites because HTTPS sites have a green lock icon in the URL bar. HTTPS are like the post office - meaning the information they send is secure only while being transmitted. **HTTPS sites aren't an indicator of whether or not the website that's receiving your information is a legitimate, safe site.** Therefore, a green lock icon should not be used a method of deciding whether or not a website is safe.*

*Cyber criminals are creating and utilizing HTTPS sites knowing that most individuals assume that a green lock icon means the website is secure and safe to use. If you are one of the individuals who thought this myth was true, you're not alone. Cyber myths are exactly what cyber criminals are capitalizing on to take advantage of you in the New Year.*

**Think Before You Click**