

CYBER SECURITY AND YOU

September 2018

QUICK TIP:

Update your home router!

There have been several Malwares recently released aimed at consumer (home) routers. Please update yours to try to protect your router from being compromised. Check to see if there are updates available for your home router and make sure the router is set to update itself automatically if that is an option. [Here](#) is a link to a list of the known vulnerable routers.

Symantec also provides a tool to see if your home router has already been infected. You can find that tool [here](#).

WHAT IS MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION?

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is a method of confirming a user's identity in which a user is granted access only after successfully presenting more than one piece of evidence (or factor) to an authentication mechanism. These factors can be the following:

- **Something the user knows (like a password or PIN)**
- **Something the user has (like a badge or token)**
- **Something the user is (like a fingerprint, face, voice, or iris)**

Did you realize that you are already proficient with MFA? One example of an everyday MFA transaction that has been around for a long time is withdrawing money from an ATM. You are required to have your Bank Card (something you have) and your PIN (something you know).

Not all factors are created equal. Text messages were widely adopted when MFA was just becoming main-stream, but since security professionals now realize how easy it is to get someone else's texts, they are no longer considered a reliable MFA factor. There are now several "Authenticator" applications for your smartphone that are much more secure than texts. Some of the best are Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator, and LastPass Authenticator. If you have a LastPass account, the LastPass Authenticator will allow you to securely logon to several sites with a single click of the mouse.



WHY DO I CARE?

MFA is drastically more secure than the old-fashioned username and password. Many everyday systems and applications are now offering or even requiring MFA for users to gain access. Gmail was an early adopter who offered MFA in 2013. Most (and hopefully all!) of your banking apps require MFA in order to access your money. Please take the extra few minutes to configure MFA in any app or site where it is an option.