Badge 2:
Cybersecurity Safeguards

Using computers and going online is fun and exciting, but there are certain rules that help you keep safe. Start by creating an online identity and protecting it. Then discover how to act responsibly, use devices safely, and figure out who is trustworthy online.

Steps

1. Create and protect a username
2. Create and protect a password
3. Discover how you share information and what to share
4. Find out that information posted online lasts forever
5. Find out how to figure out who you can trust online

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I will know how to protect my online identity and stay safe online.

1 Create and protect a username

Your identity is who you are, but when you go online you need to keep your private information private. One way to do that is to create an online identity called a username or screen name. Usernames don't include your real name or any identifying information. We use usernames so we don't have to share our private information—our real names—with strangers.

Password Power

When you create a password, choose a phrase you can remember. It should be mysterious to other people, though. Mix uppercase letters with lowercase letters. Use numbers and symbols, too. Choose a combination that makes sense to you and then keep it to yourself.

USERNAME:

WACKY PASSWORD GENERATOR

When you make a password, it should include words or phrases, numbers, and symbols. Here is a fun way to create silly passwords. Pick a letter from each group below. Write the word on the blanks at the bottom of the page.

1 **The second letter of your first name:**

A—Zippy
B—Flashy
C—Wizard
D—Doctor
E—Super
F—Mega
G—Wonder
H—Power
I—Amazing
J—Incredible
K—Ninja
L—Cyber
M—Professor
N—Agent
O—Silent
P—Thunder
Q—Sweet
R—Alpha
S—Warrior
T—Turbo
U—Star
V—Storm
W—Green
X—Champion
Y—Stealth
Z—Brilliant

2 **The last letter of your middle name:**

A—Spaghetti
B—Sleepy
C—Giggle
D—Hamster
E—Awesome
F—Jingle
G—Goofy
H—Candy
I—Electric
J—Potato
K—Happy
L—Golden
M—Muddy
N—Smartypants
O—Deep fried
P—Organic
Q—Sour
R—Undersea
S—Pony
T—Instant
U—Genius
V—Lightning
W—Pink
X—Fluffy
Y—Powerful
Z—Beyond

3 **The month you were born:**

January—Cupcake
February—Groundhog
March—Galaxy
April—Rainforest
May—Queenbee
June—Firefly
July—Fireworks
August—Shaggydog
September—Appletree
October—Ghost
November—Turkeytrot
December—Sparklylights

4 The number of people in your family

5 The number of letters in your favorite color

6 A symbol of your choice

My silly password:

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

2 Create and protect a password

When you go online, you need to protect your identity. Using a password is one way of doing this. Passwords are secret words and phrases that act as an online key to a locked door that keeps your private information safe.

PASSWORD CHECKLIST

Passwords are used to verify you are who you say you are. Explore what makes a good password.

☐ Don't use a short password. Make sure your password has at least 12 characters. Use at least one number, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter, and one special symbol.

☐ Don't use words that can be found in the dictionary.

☐ Don't use names of your family, friends, or pets in your password.

☐ Don't use numbers that are personal, such as your home address or birthday.

☐ Don't use passwords that are easy to guess, such as your name, the word "password," or "12345."

☐ Don't create passwords that identify you or relate to anything about you, such as your name, school, or sports team. (Remember, a hacker can find out a lot about you from doing a search, like your name, where you were born, your age. That information can lead them to finding out your password.)

☐ Do make your password one of a kind and completely unpredictable. Create a pattern that is not obvious by adding numbers or symbols where you don't expect it.

☐ Do change your password every 10 weeks.

☐ Don't reuse a password you've used before.

☐ Don't share your password with anyone.

Does the Password Pass the Test?

Choose the most secure password in each group. Then put the letters connected to that password together to get a secret message. Write the letters in parentheses after that password in the blanks below. You will get a secret message!

1   **a.** BIGword$4me! (P-A-S)

    b. password (N-Q-D)

    c. 1234! (A-W-T)

2   **a.** 22222 (P-R-O)

    b. #$@^&& (N-Q-D)

    c. SIllyKItty8&8!! (S-W-O)

3   **a.** Myname12 (P-R-O)

    b. password000 (N-Q-D)

    c. DoGSrule2002! (R-D-P)

4   **a.** mypasswordisprivate (Z-Z-X)

    b. password (J-K-L)

    c. 2018ILOVEkale!! (O-W-E)

5   **a.** &haha (A-D-U)

    b. HAhaHAha:)77? (R-!-!)

   **c.** 98765$ (R-D-P)

ANSWER:

__-__-__-__-__-__-__-__
__-__-__-__-__

What Is a Hacker?

A hacker is a person who uses computer skills to solve a problem with technology. There are different kinds of hackers. Some are good actors and some are bad actors.

Good actors are people who tinker with computer systems to protect them. Companies sometimes hire these good actors to look for weaknesses and mistakes in their security systems so they can be fixed.
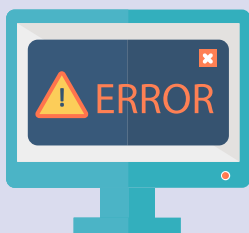
Bad actors are criminals who break into someone else's computer or a company's computer system and cause harm. Good actors can help keep bad actors from committing crimes.

Being online is like real life. There are people who you know and trust. You can share information with them.

There are also people you don't know, so you don't know if you can trust them.

In real life, you wouldn't give someone you don't know private information, such as where you live or where you go to school. You should follow that rule online too.

Just remember: if you wouldn't do it in real life, you shouldn't do it online either.

Eight Ways to Keep Your Family Computers Safe

You can help keep your family computers safe. Here's a checklist you and your family can go through together to be cyber savvy.

★ Make sure you have anti-virus software in place.

★ Turn on spam filters—this protects you from ads, scams, and unwanted emails that might carry viruses.

★ Ask your parents to use computer settings to turn on parental controls. This will keep you from accidentally stumbling on to an unsafe website.

★ Don't share any private information online.

★ Cover or disconnect webcams from computers when you are not using them. If your webcam is part of your computer, you can cover it with a piece of tape or paper. If your webcam is separate from your computer, you can unplug it.

★ Tell your parents about your favorite apps, websites, and videos. Let them know who you text or email. Your parents can help you make sure they're safe.

★ If something on your computer bothers you—even if you're not quite sure why—tell an adult.

4 Find out that information posted online lasts forever

You can never really take back what you say or show online. If you send a message, post a photo, or share something online, it never really goes away. You may decide later that you want to delete it, but most information is stored on a server (sometimes called "the cloud"). That information stays in the cloud forever—which means someone can find it later, even if you try to get rid of it.

STEP

5 Find out how to figure out who you can trust online

It's easy for someone to pretend to be someone else online. Why? Because no one can see them.

For example, an imposter could send you an email that says you can win a prize if you click on a link.

This may sound like a good deal, but clicking on the link could help the imposter steal your private information.

Imposters aren't easy to spot, but keep these rules in mind:

★ If you get an email from someone you don't know, don't open it. Show it to your parents or another trusted adult.

★ If you get an email from someone you do know asking you to click on a link—don't! It might have been sent by a computer worm that takes over email accounts and sends copies of itself to all the contacts. Show the email to your parents or another trusted adult.

★ Never chat with someone you meet online without checking with your parents.

What Is the Cloud?

When you hear someone talk about "the cloud," you might think it's up in the sky. When you're talking about computers, "the cloud" is just a network of large computers or servers that are all connected. All your online information is kept in the cloud.

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Telling my parents what I've learned about cybersecurity—the internet is always changing, so I may have learned something that will help them.

- Visiting a community center or senior center and helping people create more secure passwords.

- Doing a class presentation about how to be cybersecure and safe online.

I'm inspired to: