

NOVEMBER 2024 CYBER SECURITY TIP: HOLIDAY SECURITY

Long holiday weekends are one of the busiest times of the year for cybercriminal activity!

According to data from TransUnion, suspected digital fraud transactions can be as much as 40% higher than a normal week. Ransomware attacks also peak due to decreased staff coverage with people taking holiday leave.

- **Review your incident response plan** and ensure that it contains updated contact information.
- **Act quickly on any security alerts.** Time is working against you when accounts or systems have been compromised.
- **Don't provide too much information in your out-of-office replies or on social media.** This can be used to create more realistic phishing attempts on your peers.
- **Be extra cautious when clicking on links in emails.** Malicious actors impersonate trusted retailers and submit enticing deals through fake online shopping sites to solicit sensitive information. Instead, go directly to your trusted retailer websites and search for deals.

Note: when making online purchases, a credit card provides better fraud protection than a debit card.

Key takeaway: Be diligent! Malicious actors increase activity around the holidays due to lower staff coverage over long weekends and like to target holiday shopping deal seekers.

