

What is Digital Privacy and Security?

Digital Privacy and Security are much like drawing the shades down and locking the door to your home. When your windows are open, people get the glimpse of your home that you may want them to see, but shades are drawn when you need/want privacy. Similarly, you keep the door to your home unlocked when inviting guests in; however, lock your door when you are not welcoming guests to your home.

However, privacy and security are much simpler with your home than in the digital world. Different passwords, complexity levels, information needed and shared, permissions, and encryption can leave people confused and vulnerable. Compounding this, cyber thieves exploit these vulnerabilities making them difficult to trace and often leading them to be more brazen than your typical thief.

Why is awareness of Digital Privacy and Security important?

Much of what the Internet has to offer relies on the sharing of data. While sharing information can be helpful with those of good intent, oversharing can lead to people knowing more about you than you intended. Further, this data can often compromise your personal security leading to success in crimes such as identity theft and phishing. Further still, your oversharing may unintentionally put friends and family at risk.

Beyond oversharing, there are many other facets to privacy and security. Social Media privacy settings constantly change, and typically with a default intent of loosening privacy - remember, social media is only as successful as the amount of information collected and shared. Many people today still rely on simple passwords, or even a single password across multiple systems, allowing hackers easy access. An old, but prevalent mindset, is thinking it is OK to share passwords with others; however, as with any well kept secret, the less people know the better.

What can we do to help students?

Here is a short list of examples educators may use to discuss the relevance of Cyberbullying:

- Following the lesson "[What's the Big Deal about Internet Privacy](#)" students will be able to understand how their information is captured by websites, sometimes used for their good, and sometimes for the good of others
- Have students review a case where a compromised password led to someone's information being compromised. What were the social, financial and legal ramifications?
- With students, review samples of Twitter conversations and determine what information may lead to compromised privacy and/or security
- Privately, have students review their list of passwords. Are they secure? Are they the same? How many people know these passwords? When was the last time they were changed?
- Review a case of identity theft, either public or personal. Discuss the challenges presented to the victim and what could have been done to prevent the case.

Pascack Valley Regional High School District
Digital Citizenship

Where can I learn more?

- [Cornell University](#)
- [Commonsense Media](#) - click on "Privacy and Security"
- [Edutopia](#)
- [StaySafeOnline](#)
- [National Crime Prevention Council](#)
- [Teachhub](#) - password security
- [YouTube](#) - this link will take you to several videos specifically for Digital Security.