

Cybersecurity is a word that's used so much that it's lost most of its original air of caution. How does it affect me? What can I do? What **SHOULD** I do? Who do I listen to? Each of those bears its own response, but there are a few highlights that you should pay attention to.

The bad guys are getting smarter every day. Ten years ago they used to take over a website just for fun. Five years ago they would send out an e-mail to a million people hoping ½ of 1% clicked on the link. Now they go after an individual. They see **YOU** specifically. They know that you work in a position that has access to confidential data. They don't care about what you have in the bank. They care about what member data you have access to at Chevy Chase Club.

So is an e-mail really an innocent e-mail? Is that call from my boss **REALLY** him, or was it AI? Did I really just FaceTime with my cousin asking for a few bucks, or was that a deepfake? Can I use this thumb drive I found on someone's desk? Are you seeing the trend here? To be as secure as possible, you need to be aware.

Passwords, passkeys, OTP, MFA...all ways you can secure an account. There always seems to be something new that everyone says is better. Don't cling desperately to your old method of, say, a text message one time password. There's a reason newer things are rolled out.

At the Club, there are lots of things watching out for you. Would you believe that about 85% of the email that gets sent to us is filtered out as malicious or junk? We update your computers constantly. When Microsoft issues an update, it's installed within hours, sometimes sooner. When you click a link in an e-mail, it goes through two separate systems to make sure it's safe. And if your computer winds up in trouble, there is a tool now that will automatically isolate it from the network within seconds. And we train and test you monthly to keep you on your toes.

At the end of the day, the technical side of things we can handle. But always remember the strongest and weakest link is you.

The electronic world isn't meant to be scary. If you ever have questions about anything in that world, don't hesitate to [contact me](#).



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