

# POSSIBILITIES

**December 2013**

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## **What you need to know to securely shop online**

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Keep these security tips in mind when entering credit card information online:

- Check the address bar for "https:" to ensure you're shopping on a secure site.
- Don't allow the website to store your credit card information. Always enter credit card information manually when making a purchase.
- Avoid making purchases on public Wi-Fi. Make online purchases only on private, password protected Wi-Fi connections.
- Monitor your account activity frequently. Pay attention to your statements, making sure you can identify each charge.

For more information on avoiding identity theft this holiday season, visit [security.tamu.edu/protect\\_myself/Identity\\_Theft.php](http://security.tamu.edu/protect_myself/Identity_Theft.php).

## **eCampus grade submission to Howdy**

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Grade submission from eCampus to Howdy is now available. Instructors of Record or SWASECT graders can submit final student grades directly from the eCampus Grade Center to Howdy, where they are automatically recorded to the Compass student information system. Pilot participants successfully submitted over 9,000 grades during the mid-term grading period, ensuring this feature works correctly. For more information, visit [wikis.tamu.edu/display/itsdocs/Grade+Submission+to+Howdy](http://wikis.tamu.edu/display/itsdocs/Grade+Submission+to+Howdy).

## Ransomware lurking in email attachments

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Ransomware is a computer virus that scrambles your files, making them unusable, then asks for money to return access to them. CryptoLocker is new ransomware that doesn't just lock files on your hard drive - it also can infect networked drives, including department share drives. To avoid ransomware, do NOT open email attachments unless you are expecting them. See more security tips at [security.tamu.edu](http://security.tamu.edu).

## Email selection committee convened

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Texas A&M is reviewing options for migrating to cloud-based email. The Email Selection Advisory Committee has been convened by the Provost and is charged with recommending the transition path for faculty, staff and student email and determining a governance structure to address usage and policy questions. The committee will submit final recommendations in December 2013. See [itacwiki.tamu.edu/TEAC](http://itacwiki.tamu.edu/TEAC).

## No-charge training for making websites mobile friendly

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Interested in creating mobile-friendly websites? Texas A&M's Go Mobile team is offering a no-charge, hands-on technical workshop on how to implement responsive web design. The one-day course takes place on January 27 at the General Services Complex. Sign up at [secure.touchnet.com/C21490\\_ustores/web/store\\_cat.jsp?STOREID=190&CATID=341](http://secure.touchnet.com/C21490_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=190&CATID=341).

## LinkedIn Intro: Naughty not nice

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LinkedIn's recently released email service, called Intro, may seem nice, but it could give you a lump of coal instead. This service is designed to bring LinkedIn information directly into your iPhone mail. While this may sound cool, you must give LinkedIn your email password to use the service. LinkedIn logs in to your account (as you) and intercepts every email you send, modifying them to attach your profile information. While LinkedIn may have good intentions, any hacker who breaks into LinkedIn will be able to access your account, read your email and send messages as you. Be smart and safe. Don't use LinkedIn Intro.

## How to connect new mobile devices to campus services

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Is a new mobile device in your future? Here are quick links on connecting it to campus services:

- Wireless: [hdc.tamu.edu/Connecting/Wireless/TAMULink for Mobile Devices](http://hdc.tamu.edu/Connecting/Wireless/TAMULink_for_Mobile_Devices)
- Email: [hdc.tamu.edu/Connecting/Email/Mobile Email](http://hdc.tamu.edu/Connecting/Email/Mobile_Email)
- Virtual Private Network: [hdc.tamu.edu/Connecting/VPN](http://hdc.tamu.edu/Connecting/VPN)

## Time to upgrade! Windows XP no longer supported

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On April 8, 2014, Microsoft will stop supporting Windows XP and will no longer make security updates. To protect your computer, you should no longer use Windows XP. Buy the latest version of Windows for your home PC for only \$10 at [software.tamu.edu](http://software.tamu.edu). Note: Employee eligibility for purchasing discounted software depends on their department's enrollment in the campus Microsoft licensing program. Contact your local IT administrator about your eligibility.

## New VPN for Windows RT, Chrome OS, many Android devices

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A new Virtual Private Network (VPN) method is available for Windows RT, Chrome OS and many Android devices. To improve security, some resources, such as Compass, can only be accessed from off campus by using VPN. For set-up instructions, go to [hdc.tamu.edu/Connecting/VPN](http://hdc.tamu.edu/Connecting/VPN) and choose your device type. The legacy VPN 3000 ([vpn-master.tamu.edu](http://vpn-master.tamu.edu)) for all platforms and devices will be decommissioned during Spring break 2014.

The PossibilitIes newsletter is delivering more news and useful tips that help put technology to work for you. If you have questions about an IT service, contact Help Desk Central at 979.845.8300 or [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu).

Tell us what you think about this newsletter by emailing [tamu-it-coms@tamu.edu](mailto:tamu-it-coms@tamu.edu).