

# The Rise of Cyberattacks:

## *How to Protect Yourself and the University*

Colleges and universities face a unique threat landscape, and higher education institutions will remain targets due to the sensitivity of our data. The long-term impact of system and data breaches is significant, with major consequences for employees, students, IT infrastructure and the university's reputation. Managing human risk is one of the fastest-growing challenges for institutions, but it also offers our greatest opportunity for protection. We all have a role in helping protect Samford from cyberthreats. When employees are vigilant in protecting their own systems and data, they protect themselves and the university.

How can you help? Remember to **S.T.O.P.**

### **Share Carefully**

- Avoid accidentally exposing answers to account security questions by disclosing personal details like where you were born, your kids' birthdays or pet names online.
- Do not share account usernames or passwords with family or friends.
- Do not respond to unsolicited requests for information.
- In general, only provide the minimum amount of information required for a given situation.

### **Trust Only Verified Sources**

- Do not trust unsolicited calls, emails or text messages.
- Because even trusted sources may be compromised by malware, you should verify names, links and numbers in electronic communication by hovering (desktop) or long-pressing (mobile), or by typing in the supposed originator's web address to retrieve contact information directly.
- Forward suspicious emails to [spamadmin@samford.edu](mailto:spamadmin@samford.edu).
- Only download and install software and applications directly from well-known, trusted sources like Apple and Microsoft or consult technology services for assistance.

### **Only Install and Use Up-to-date Software**

- Keep your operating system, applications and virus definitions up to date. Outdated software is a significant security risk.

### **Practice Good Password Management**

- Use a password manager like Bitwarden or LastPass to facilitate good password practices.
- Use a random password phrase of at least 20 characters. Length is better than complexity.
- Do not re-use passwords.
- Whenever possible, use multi-factor authentication such as DUO.



**By committing ourselves to **S.T.O.P.**, we can each do our part to help ensure the security of Samford University.**

*If you ever suspect that your account has been compromised, contact the service desk immediately (day or night).*

**Service Desk** • [support@samford.edu](mailto:support@samford.edu) • 205-726-2662 • 012 University Library