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October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

DHS Launches Initiative to Help Americans Secure Cyberspace

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Cyber Security Division (NCSD) is spearheading the fourth annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month with a comprehensive outreach campaign to empower all Americans and businesses to take steps to secure their part of cyberspace. Events planned throughout the month in cities across the country are intended to raise awareness of the growing need to protect our Nation's critical infrastructures and key resources from cyber threats and vulnerabilities.

NCSD partners with the National Cyber Security Alliance, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, other government agencies, and private industry in this effort. The month's activities include press and media events, educational workshops, state cyber exercises, and lectures hosted by public and private partners, proclamations by state governors, and other stakeholder outreach activities. State Governors, Attorney Generals, Mayors, and legislatures are encouraged to pass proclamations to support awareness as well as host their own events.



"DHS and its partners encourage every computer user, from the occasional surfer to the enterprise administrator, to learn about available tools and resources which can help them become part of the cyber security solution," said Assistant Secretary of Cybersecurity and Communication, Greg Garcia.

At the kickoff Cyber Security Summit, which also highlighted the importance of protecting against identity theft Garcia noted, "The developments we have made in strengthening federal systems, creating and implementing plans and procedures, and enhancing our operational cyber response capabilities have been revolutionary, but our work has just begun." Securing cyberspace is an ongoing mission. Assistant Secretary Garcia's full remarks can be found here http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1191270671928.shtm

The theme of this year's campaign, "Protect Yourself Before You Connect Yourself," was chosen to demonstrate that both individual and enterprise users can take simple steps to protect their part of cyberspace and help secure America's cyber assets.

Cyber security is a vital part of global operations of security, diplomacy, and business, and an awareness campaigns, like this one, are useful tools for focusing attention on a problem that all sectors must address.

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