Data Privacy Day

University of Maine System Information Security

University of Maine System Information Technology Services

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It's time to use MFA!

Ask yourself: what kind and how much data would my password let a criminal access?

January 28th was Data Privacy Day, a day to reflect on what you can do to protect the privacy of yourself and others. Aside from oversharing data, the best approach you can take is to use Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) on your personal and University of Maine System (UMS) accounts.

Stealing passwords is a criminal pastime. In a split second, we all can inadvertently log into a spoofed site - whether to open that allegedly “secure” Google or Microsoft document, keep our account from supposedly being locked by a phony IT sender, or see that latest benefit from someone acting as HR.

If you use MFA, an attacker who steals your password and doesn’t possess your second-factor device won’t be able to log in to your enterprise accounts posing as you, take possession of data entrusted to you, or use your account to spam or phish others.

Required or not, it is the responsible thing to do. During 2023, regulatory requirements have driven the UMS to require MFA for those...
working with student financial aid data or critical defense data. That is a good start in protecting others’ data, but we must do more. Ask yourself: what kind and how much data would my password let a criminal access? What would be the impact if that data was stolen or shared? As a minimum, if you have access to MaineStreet or other enterprise systems, MFA should be a priority.

**It isn’t that hard.**
It is easy to [sign up for Multi-Factor Authentication](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/youraccount/how-to/enable-mfa) and easy to use on your smartphone or with a special token device. How you use it varies, but it can be as easy as

Thank you,

UMS Information Security

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