



**COT Cyber Security
Reminder:
Be a careful Internet user**
Ransomware incidents on the rise

The Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) is alerting all users of the growing number of ransomware attempts throughout the Internet in recent months.

Ransomware is a malware that takes a computer hostage by encrypting its files, making them unavailable to the victim until a ransom is paid in return for the decryption key. This malware is becoming popular among attackers for several reasons:

- The attack tools are easily available;
- The returns for the attacker are lucrative; and,
- The ransom payment is usually made using bitcoin or other methods that maintain the attacker's anonymity.

Victims often comply because the ransom may only be a few hundred dollars, and the value of their machine and data is considered greater than the ransom.

As with most malware, several methods may be used to attack, either in conjunction with one another or alone. These can include:

- phishing emails with malicious attachments or links;
- pop-ups or fake advertisements claiming to have an update to a popular software; or,
- infected websites.

Internet Tips to Remember

- ✓ Never click on links or attachments in unexpected emails.
- ✓ Verify any unusual email from a known sender by contacting them in a new email or by calling them.
- ✓ Software updates are usually done by IT staff over the network. Always verify any request to update your machine with IT staff.
- ✓ Do not download unapproved software from the Internet.
- ✓ Data saved to your computer's hard (C:) drive or Desktop will not be backed up. Save data to a server drive so that it will not be lost if your computer is compromised.
- ✓ Use your Internet browser's pop-up blocker.
- ✓ Turn off the computer and immediately report any unusual problems to the Commonwealth Service Desk at 502.564.7576. Don't respond to the attackers or attempt recovery on your own.
- ✓ Be cautious while Internet browsing.

COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats and vulnerabilities. If you need to report an incident or breach of security, contact the Commonwealth Service Desk at 502.564.7576.

Budget Update:

If you missed Secretary Landrum's message last week about the Finance Cabinet budget proposal, you can access it here:

[Finance Cabinet Budget Recommendations](#)

Libraries Offer Investor Education 'Scavenger Hunt' Contest

*Ky Department of Financial Institutions, Investor Protection Institute
Launched Program March 15*

Kentuckians can visit participating libraries to compete in an investor education and protection program and contest called DASH for the STASH.

The contest started March 15 and ends May 15, 2016. It is being launched in Kentucky by the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions and the nonprofit Investor Protection Institute. The two organizations will present one statewide winner with a \$1,000 prize to open or add to a retirement investment account for 2016.

DASH for the STASH will be offered at participating public libraries and community college libraries across Kentucky.

The DASH for the STASH is played much like a scavenger hunt. Instead of collecting objects, individuals collect information about saving and investing and leave answers to quiz questions. To enter the contest, individuals visit a participating library where a set of four investor education topic posters (and one rules poster) are displayed. Contestants read each poster and then access the quiz question for each poster.

"Our goal is to impart financial knowledge on how to save, invest and protect your nest egg," said DFI Securities Division Director Shonita Bossier. "Investor education, although a serious matter, should be an enjoyable and educational experience. We invite Kentuckians of all ages to play and learn along the way some tips on smart investing and avoiding fraud."

The easiest way to play DASH for the STASH is to use a smartphone or mobile device to scan each poster's QR code. Or participants can use a computer to look up the web link provided. Either way, people enter the contest by visiting a host location and answering the quiz questions online. For a chance to win, an individual must answer all four quiz questions correctly. The posters cover four key topics: finding financial advisers, avoiding fraud, understanding investment fees, and building a nest egg.

Participating locations in Kentucky (as of Feb. 29).

[Click here](#) for an updated list.



Name That Trail...

The WalkBike Frankfort Board is looking for naming ideas for the trail that will connect downtown to Kentucky State University. Send your ideas via email by Tuesday, March 22. The board

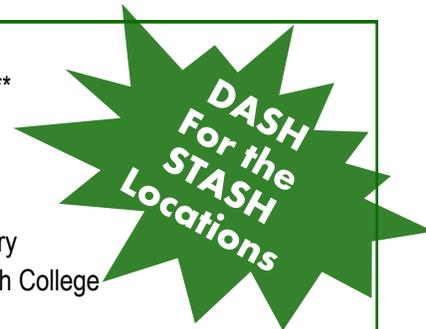
will narrow the list down to a few and then conduct a survey to determine the name.

To submit ideas, email walkbikefrankfort@gmail.com.

The pedestrian and bike master plan for Frankfort can be found online at www.walkbikefrankfort.org/top10.



Bath County Memorial Library
Calloway County Public Library***
Casey County Public Library*
Clark County Public Library
Clinton County Public Library*
Cumberland County Public Library
Elizabethtown Community & Tech College
Estill County Public Library*
Gallatin County Public Library*
Garrard County Public Library
Hardin County Public Library*
Lincoln County Public Library*
Louisville Free Public Library*
Madison County Public Library***
Mason County Public Library*
Maysville Community and Technical College
McLean County Public Library*
Meade County Public Library
Muhlenberg County Public Libraries
Nelson County Public Library*
Paris-Bourbon County Library*
Paul Sawyier Public Library
Pineville-Bell County Public Library
Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College
Spencer County Public Library
Taylor County Public Library
Trimble County Public Library*
Warren County Public Library*
Webster County Public Library*
West Kentucky Community & Technical College
Woodford County Library*



*All locations offering posters in English. Some locations are offering additional language posters as well. * = Spanish and English ** = Chinese and English *** = Spanish, Chinese and English*