CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

ID Theft Talk Presented March 11

UF Information Technology

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Table of Contents

ID Theft Talk Presented March 11 ................................................................. 3
Phishing for Students .................................................................................... 3
You Can Protect Your Identity ................................................................. 3
For More Information ............................................................................... 3
ID Theft Talk Presented March 11

On March 11, 2005, the UF IT security team [http://infosec.ufl.edu/] hosted an identity theft session in the Reitz Union Auditorium. The session focused on how to protect your good name, how to spot a scam and how the Internet plays a role in identity theft.

Guest speaker Brenda Williams, from the Alachua County Extension Office, discussed the risks involving identity theft and how to protect oneself from becoming a victim of identity theft. In the second half of the session, Jordan Wiens, UF Network Security Engineer, discussed details of "phishing" and other online scams. “Identity theft is a growing problem online,” said Wiens, “this was a good way to get people informed on how they can protect themselves from the ever-changing threat.”

Phishing for Students

E-mail and web scams, also called "phishing", are one way that identities are stolen. Phishing scams have increased steadily over the past few years, making college students a popular target. Types of theft include hackers gaining access to personal information from databases, phishing emails or popups which persuade users to disclose personal information, and cases like the recent ChoicePoint scam in which personal information was sold to illegitimate organizations.

You Can Protect Your Identity

By limiting the amount of personal information people disclose and being aware of various scams people can protect their identity. A survey of the session established that about 93 percent of the respondents found the event useful and would attend other security-related events while 41 percent found that general awareness of the topic was most useful.

For More Information

Due to the broad media coverage and enthusiastic attendees, the security team is hoping to schedule a similar event for the future. You can visit http://infosec.ufl.edu/literature for the materials distributed during the event and http://infosec.ufl.edu/athome for other security information.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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