



# Homeland Security

## STOP.THINK.CONNECT.

Increasingly more Americans are using new and innovative technologies while also spending more amounts of their time online. Whether it's at home, at work, or at school, our growing need for technology – coupled with increasing cyber threats and risks to our privacy – demands greater security in our online world.

Stop.Think.Connect.™ is a national public awareness campaign aimed at increasing the understanding of cyber threats and empowering the American public to be safer and more secure online. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. We each have to do our part to keep the Internet safe. When we all take simple steps to be safer online, it makes using the Internet a more enjoyable and secure experience for everyone.

Visit [www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect) to find cyber tips, best practices, and tools to help all citizens stay safer and more secure online.

### HISTORY

In 2009, the Cyberspace Policy Review recognized the need to increase education and awareness about cybersecurity. As part of this policy review, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was asked to create an ongoing cybersecurity awareness campaign – Stop.Think.Connect. – to help Americans understand the risks that come with being online. The Stop.Think.Connect. campaign launched on October 4, 2010, in conjunction with National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

### NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM). NCSAM provides an opportunity to:

- Raise your cybersecurity awareness



- Learn the latest on responding to and protecting against cyber incidents
- Participate in cybersecurity activities most relevant to you
- Collaborate with peers and campaign partners

Here are three ways to get ready for NCSAM now:

1. Promote NCSAM – Develop your education and awareness campaign using our free posters, web banners, social media messages, and template articles.
2. Become a Campaign Partner – Non-profit organizations, government agencies, colleges and universities can show support for NCSAM and your commitment to cybersecurity. Being a Campaign partner is easy and does not require any financial support.
3. Sign up for updates – Visit [www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect-friends-campaign-program](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect-friends-campaign-program) to receive the latest NCSAM information and cyber news directly to your email inbox.



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To learn more about how to get involved in National Cyber Security Awareness Month, go to [www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month](http://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month).

## JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Become a campaign partner by joining one of our partner programs:

- **Academia:** Join the Academic Alliance. Help students, faculty, staff and alumni adopt safe online practices. Join other nonprofit colleges and universities in the Stop.Think.Connect. Academic Alliance.
- **Government:** Join the Cyber Awareness Coalition. Work directly with DHS to promote cyber threat awareness and online safety practices within your Federal agency or SLTT government.
- **Non-profits:** Join the National Network. Advocate and promote cybersecurity within your non-profit organization or group.

Find information about all three groups at [www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect-join-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect-join-campaign) or email [stopthinkconnect@dhs.gov](mailto:stopthinkconnect@dhs.gov).

Individuals can sign up for the Stop.Think.Connect. campaign's monthly *Friends* newsletter to receive the latest cyber tips, news, and trends.

Go to [www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect-friends-campaign-program](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect-friends-campaign-program) to sign up.

## ABOUT DHS CYBER

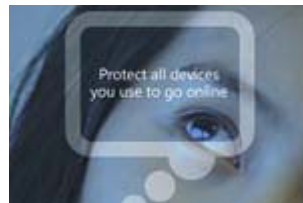
DHS is responsible for safeguarding our Nation's critical infrastructure from physical and cyber threats that can affect national security, public safety, and economic prosperity. DHS actively engages the public and private sectors partners to prepare for, prevent, and respond to catastrophic incidents that could degrade or overwhelm these strategic assets.

For more information on DHS cyber programs, visit [www.dhs.gov/cyber](http://www.dhs.gov/cyber).

To learn more or to get involved in the campaign, visit [www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect) or contact us at [stopthinkconnect@dhs.gov](mailto:stopthinkconnect@dhs.gov).



**Stop:** Before you use the Internet, take time to understand the risks, and learn how to spot potential problems.



**Think:** Take a moment to be certain the path ahead is clear. Consider how your actions online could impact your safety or your family's.



**Connect:** Enjoy the Internet with greater confidence, knowing you've taken the right steps to safeguard yourself and your computer.