

CCFO NEWSLETTER

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Trick or Treat

Nathan Abbott, Information Systems Manager
Division of Local Government Audit

Well, it's that time of year when we all think of Cybersecurity. Since 2004, the President of the United States and Congress have declared the month of October to be Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a dedicated month for the public and private sectors and tribal communities to work together to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity.

Being cybersecurity aware is important because you don't want an attack to happen to you. You are the first line of defense against hackers who are trying to trick you with treats in emails, text messaging, and website teasers. Cybersecurity involves every one of us and it's not just all about technology. Over 90% of cybersecurity incidents are due to human error. It's on us to implement secure IT controls, to know how to recognize security threats, and to respond and recover from a cyberattack. In this month's article I want to provide you with five things you can do at work or home that will go a long way to help your cyber hygiene, so you don't fall victim to a trick.

- **Use strong passwords, pass phrases and a password manager:** Strong passwords are critical to protecting data. Your passwords should be long, random, unique, and include all four-character types (uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and symbols). Pass-phrases are easier to remember and allow you to be more random. Password managers are a powerful tool to help you create a long, random, and



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Phone: 615-401-7841
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unique password for each of your accounts. Plus, they make storing passwords and user IDs easy.

- **Think before you click:** Phishing emails, texts, and calls are the number one way data gets compromised. Be cautious of unsolicited emails, texts or calls asking for personal information. Avoid sharing sensitive information or credentials over the phone or email unless necessary and do not click on links or open attachments sent from unknown sources. Verify the authenticity of requests by contacting the individual or organization through a trusted channel. Report phishing attempts to the appropriate authorities or your IT department. If you take a moment to stop and think before clicking it will save you from making that phone call.
- **Update software:** Ensuring your software is up to date is the best way to make sure you have the latest security patches and updates on your devices. Regularly check manually for updates if automatic updates are not available and keep operating systems, antivirus software, web browsers, and applications up to date. Remember updates are not only on your computer, but also your phone.
- **Backups:** Ensure your data is backed up. Whether it is onsite or in the cloud it is your responsibility that the data you need is there, and you can use it. Doing this will also help you recover from an attack. You don't want to wait until it is too late.
- **Turn on multifactor authentication (MFA):** You need more than a password to protect your online accounts and enabling MFA makes you significantly less likely to get hacked. Enable multifactor authentication on all your online accounts that offer it, especially email, social media, and financial accounts. Use authentication apps or hardware tokens for added security. Most password managers also offer this as a feature.

I want to stress that cybersecurity never goes away and it should be an everyday process. The Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury has invested heavily in Cybersecurity awareness. If you would like to learn more please visit tncot.cc/cyberaware. If you liked this article and would be interested in learning more about Cybersecurity, request a speaker at your next event on our [Cyberaware website](#).

Missed a previous newsletter?

Have a question about CPE guidelines?

Need to log into an existing account?



Visit www.comptroller.tn.gov for more information.

Do you need a **Cyber Security** speaker for your next event?



If you do not receive a response from a Division of Local Government Audit staff member within three days of your request, please email cyber.aware@cot.tn.gov

Organization

Full Name

Email



Visit tncot.cc/cyberaware to request a speaker.



SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS

A state & local government partnership program

OPEN TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
COUNTIES, CITIES, UTILITY DISTRICTS & AUTHORITIES

**1.5 HOURS CPE
CREDIT AVAILABLE**

(CMFO, CCFO, UTILITY
BOARD TRAINING)
BY REQUEST WHEN
REGISTERING

Session Focus:

Utilities in
Tennessee –
Things You’ll Want
to Know

**27 OCT 2023
11:30AM CT**

193 POLK AVE, SUITE D
NASHVILLE, TN 37219

 ZOOM ALSO AVAILABLE

Moderated by Ross Colona, Assistant
Director, TN Comptroller’s Division of
Local Government Finance

Panel Members:

- Mike Adams, Dickson County Water Authority
- Drexel Heidel, West Knox Utility District
- Greg Moody, Comptroller of the Treasury, Chairman, TBOUR
- Anthony Pelham, Warren County Utility District



REGISTER NOW:

https://comptrollertn.formstack.com/forms/successful_connections_registration_oct2023

THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE IS OFFERING FREE CPE

16 hours • 1 Location Still Available • CMFO & CCFO Training Only

NASHVILLE, TN
OCTOBER 25-26, 2023
(VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON OPTIONS)



TOPICS INCLUDED: *GASB UPDATES, CYBERSECURITY, MUNICIPAL CHART OF ACCOUNTS, OPEN MEETINGS, PURCHASING, AND SO MUCH MORE!*

REGISTRATION CLOSING
OCTOBER 13TH
REGISTER TODAY!





West Tennessee
Satellite Chapter

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS + FRAUD

October 26, 2023

📍 Jackson, TN

4 CPE



Register Here!

Location:

Jackson Energy Authority's Training Center
320 Highway 45 Bypass
Jackson, TN 38301

Time:

9:30am - Check-in
10:00am - 2:30pm - Education Event

Shannon Miller
Network Support Specialist

Bryan Ford
Executive Vice President
Head of Corporate Sales
and Treasury Management



Know someone who would be a great CCFO?

ENROLLMENT FOR NEXT COHORT IS OPENING SOON

Encourage them to apply today.
Classes begin in February 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

CCFO (tn.gov)

Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO) | CTAS (tennessee.edu)



Upcoming Training Opportunities

CPE Provider Training Classes and Conferences

(The following list is not a preapproval or endorsement of the provider organizations. For any questions regarding online CPE courses, please refer to the CMFO Policies and Procedures Manual.)

ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners)
<http://www.acfe.com/>

ACPEN (Accounting CPE Network)
<http://www.acpen.com/>

AGA (Association of Government Accountants)
(CGFM)
<http://www.agacgfm.org/>

AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) CPEExpress
<https://www.aicpa.org/cpeandconferences/cpeself-study.html>

Checkpoint Learning CPEasy
<http://www.cpeasy.com/>

Continuing Academics CPETutor
<http://www.cafacpe.com/default.aspx>

CTAS
<http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/content/training>

GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association)
http://www.gfoa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28&Itemid=49

Local Government Corporation
<https://www.localgovernmentcorporation.com/drupal7/>

NASACT (National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, & Treasurers)
<http://nasact.org/>

TGA (Tennessee Gas Association)
<http://www.tngas.org/>

TCMA (Tennessee City Management Association)
<http://www.tncma.org/>

TGFOA (Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association)
<http://www.tngfoa.org>

TSCPA (Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants)
<http://www.tscpa.com>

TVPPA (Tennessee Valley Public Power Association, Inc.)
<http://www.tvppa.com/>

Tyler Technologies
<http://www.tylertech.com/>

Western CPE
<http://www.westerncpe.com/>



Have a question?
Not sure who to contact?

Certified County Finance Officer (tn.gov)



Visit the 2023
training calendar
to view upcoming CPE
classes

ctas.tennessee.edu

Reminder:

CPE Reporting due
December 31st

