

THE TECHNOLOGY BYTE

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ACE TECHNOLOGY GROUP

ROMANCE

Scams

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CYBER ROMANCE SCAMS

It's LOVE month and we all know what that means...hopeless romantics trying their chance at love via the internet. Those on the dating scene need to take precautions so they don't get cat-phished this Valentine's Day.

Online dating has increased dramatically since the pandemic opening a door for cybercriminals and bad actors to earn someone's trust over time. Their end result does not equal happy-ever-after, their end result is a fake cause that requires help for medical expenses, a plane ticket, or just cold hard cash.

People working in finance, IT, and media are the most targeted when it comes to cyber romance scams. With men falling victim 28% of the time. Most people think these actors use dating apps to find their victims, but in reality, these cybercriminals use social media and email more than any other channel. To establish trust with their target, cybercriminals use social engineering to manipulate victims before they begin asking for money or sending malicious links. Being wary of cybercriminal behavior is important and the best way to protect yourself from sharing something you shouldn't.



ACE Technology Group

RECENT SECURITY BREACHES IN THE U.S.



RR Donnelly

Exploit: Ransomware



TransCredit

Exploit: Misconfiguration



Strategic Benefits Advisors, Inc

Exploit: Hacking

UNDER HOOD

aceConnect & aceCloud

Many companies now offer hybrid work, working from the office for at least one day a week while also spending some time working remotely. A seamless transition is crucial to ensure your work experience from home to the office is smooth and non-disruptive.

We offer aceConnect, which allows you to connect from your home PC or laptop into your ACE managed work PC or laptop. aceConnect permits you to use your device the same way you would as though you were sitting at your desk. It also utilizes a secure encrypted connection with 2 Factor Authentication, added security to prevent anyone from connecting to your work device without your permission.

Another option is the aceCloud that allows you to virtualize your PC, enabling you to log in from anywhere, from any device, at any time, using the Parallels software. aceCloud also uses 2 Factor Authentication when logging in to protect your data from unwanted parties.

Don't Blame Cupid for Criminal Love Schemes



CHRIS'S CORNER

Expert Advice From The Owner

Dating or cultivating relationships is hard enough, let alone trying to do it successfully in a world of cybercriminals. You're putting your heart in the hands of the internet gods and trusting that they will guide you safely along the corridors of the unknown and unseen. You enter the world of possibilities with optimism and likely the trust that all is being done in good faith to connect you with other good and honest people.

Some of us created new identities when going from high school geek to college chic, but there are some who create new identities like "I'm a man in a foreign country pretending to be a woman that lives in your city who will meet you but will never show up and will likely gain your trust and then steal your identity or money or banking info and you won't even realize what happened before it's too late" approach. Or something like that.

You may think that you are too wise to fall for it. You assume that you are on alert and therefore more aware of anything like that ever happening. That is what every other man or woman said before they too fell for a romance scam. It's embarrassing and your ego will be bruised, but you are not alone and need to know that cybercriminals prey on our human weaknesses. And what bigger weakness is there than when it comes to love?

Entire identities can be created by pulling random imagery and data – do a quick search to find photos of people who aren't even real. It's out there. Photoshop does wonders for people creating fake identities. We aren't here to tell you that true love doesn't exist and that it can't be found online. It certainly can. But as you go along on this journey, please stay safe.

Love and romance, and certainly friendship, can all be found successfully online. Just make sure you don't let your guard down and reveal too much, or trust too much, and do your research. Protect your heart while using your head and trusting your gut.

LATEST IN CYBER SECURITY

Online Dating? Beware of "Money Mule" Love Schemes

The "money mule" love scheme erupted online during the pandemic. Cybercriminals create online dating profiles to carry out money laundering schemes using victims looking for love and connection.

Online dating is difficult to navigate without cybercriminals using social engineering to establish "money mules"! Cybercriminals are using online dating sites to trick victims into money laundering schemes that use stolen money. The FBI defines a "money mule" as "someone who transfers or moves illegally acquired money on behalf of someone else."

Even though these love-struck victims unknowingly commit crimes, the FBI warns that victims of "money mule" schemes can be prosecuted and charged for crimes like mail fraud, bank fraud, wire fraud, money laundering, aggravated identity theft, and more. "Money mules" can also have their own identity stolen and used, resulting in repayment of stolen money to other victims.

Scammers target anyone, regardless of background, sex, education, or income level. Cybercriminals use social engineering to gain someone's trust before manipulating them into their "money mule" scheme. Victims think they are helping someone they love by depositing checks and giving them money. All while unknowingly partaking in drug trafficking, human trafficking, or even funding terrorism.

How the schemes work, a cybercriminal will gain a victim's trust by saying all the right things and by sending flowers or small tokens to declare their love. Once the cybercriminal has their victim love-struck, they will begin asking for money. In some cases, the cybercriminal will then ask the victim to deposit money, and in return, they ask for a check or money order, and the money laundering cycle begins. Some cybercriminals suggest a joint business effort and then send the victim money to deposit into an account. Once a hefty amount is in the bank account, the scammer will ask for a wire transfer to get the "business" underway. Many victims don't realize the criminal activity they've participated in until it is too late.



RED FLAGS TO SPOT ONLINE DATING SCAMMERS

- ▶ **Limited Profile Information**
 - One or two profile pics and look like models or **stock photos**
 - Live in another country (scammers claim to be currently deployed)
 - No link to social media accounts
- ▶ **Moves Convo to Another Platform**
 - Be cautious of those who want to **move communication** to email or another app too quickly
- ▶ **Progresses Relationship WAY Too Fast**
 - Declaring their love or even talking about marriage only after a short time of communicating
- ▶ **Excuses, Excuses, Excuses**
 - Making an excuse every time you want to meet in person or have a video call
- ▶ **Ask You for Money**
 - An online love interest asking for money is the **BIGGEST** red flag of all

**Always trust your gut.
If someone seems too good to be true
it's probably is an online scammer.**

CYBERSECURITY TERMS TO KNOW

Social Engineering: *noun*

a technique that uses psychological manipulation, fraud, or dishonesty to force people to disclose private, personal, or corporate information, or to take a particular action

(Dictionary.com)



REMINDER

THE FASTEST WAY TO SUBMIT A SUPPORT REQUEST IS THROUGH THE SUPPORT AGENT ICON LOCATED IN THE TASK TRAY ON YOUR PC.

NEW IN TECHNOLOGY

New Infrared Goggles Help Blind People Navigate Obstacles



Photo Credit: MANUEL ZAHN / ARMAGHAN AHMAD KHAN

Manuel Zahn and Armaghan Ahmad Khan of Germany have created a new device to help blind people navigate obstacles. Unlike canes and other tools for the visually impaired, these infrared goggles, and vibrating forearm pads would enable visually impaired people full use of their hands, according to a [yet-to-be peer-reviewed study](#) on the device.

“The most common tool available to them is the cane. Although the cane allows good detection of objects in the

user’s immediate vicinity, it lacks the ability to detect obstacles further away,” researchers Manuel Zahn and Armaghan Ahmad Khan from the Technical University of Munich in Germany wrote in the study.

The “novel obstacle avoidance system” combines a 3D camera with a haptic feedback sleeve. The camera uses distance information and projects it into a 2D vibration on the forearm sleeve pads. If a user walks towards an obstacle, the vibrations gradually increase and, because the goggles use infrared, they are usable in the dark.

Volunteer testers were able to wear the device, identify, and avoid obstacles with a 98% accuracy rate, according to the scientists. Volunteers completed timed indoor navigation tasks in the dark, with their completion time improving with each trial run.

Unlike other apps and devices, this promising new technology does not interfere with the user’s sense of hearing, used extensively by the visually impaired. This device would also enable more independence for the visually impaired.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ANDREA

Get to know your friendly ACE team!

Co-owner, Main Line born-and-bred, Villanova grad, married to high school sweetheart (Chris Shank) and mom of 3 wonderful kids.



Gained experience in the finance world, spent time as an office manager and accounting rep at her family’s business where she learned that partners with complementary skill sets could really propel a new business to success, and moved on to her greatest work to date in 2002—being a mom and working with husband Chris to establish a strong foothold in the small to medium-size IT business market in the Philadelphia region.

Known as a ‘numbers nerd’ who is meticulous with numbers, Andrea takes pride in being able to help ACE in the finance and operations departments. She keeps everything behind the scenes running smoothly. By supporting our team of techs with strong business infrastructure, they can better focus on customer service and satisfaction.

On Sundays and when Andrea is not working, she’s either at church, hosting her extended family for dinner, helping out at her children’s school, or on the tennis court hitting that pesky ball around.

POWER COMMANDS



Undo mistakes you just made

For Windows: Ctrl + Z to undo any task, from typing to accidentally deleting an email. Ctrl + Y will redo whatever you undid.

For Mac: Command + Z to undo. Shift + Command + Z to redo.



Refresh your screen

For Windows: Press F5, this will refresh the window you are currently in.

For Mac: Command + R will refresh your screen.