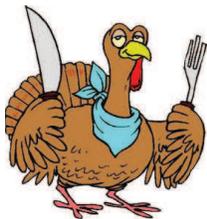# ACTion!

Advanced Concepts Training Corporation

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Wherever your Thanksgiving festivities take you, remember to be safe and not to drink and drive.

As always, we welcome your comments and input and please enjoy our newsletter!

Stephen Johnson

Note: U.S. studies have shown sugar doesn't make kids hyper. I guess the people who did the studies didn't have children ;-)

redhat

A Training Partner

Protecting Your Personal Information

In today's world where data is at your finger tips, protecting your personal information is of the utmost importance. In our daily lives, we are in a perpetual state of transferring information or in some cases leaving it behind. In order to keep the identity thieves at bay, there are a few things in everyday life that you should be vigilant about.

Your name, social security number, and bank account numbers are the identifying items that would-be-thieves most often go after. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) identifies six common ways criminals attempt to steal this information:

1. **Dumpster diving**. In an electronic world, it's easy to neglect the physical. Make sure all bills, statements, etc. containing personal information are shredded before disposal. Criminals are not above digging in your trash to get your information.

2. **Changing your address**. Crafty thieves may divert your billing/account statements to a different location by forging a change of address form. To protect yourself, watch for bills that are not appearing and keep an eye on your credit report.

3. **Skimming**. As our technology has progressed, so has the thieves'. They can steal your card numbers utilizing a device that stores your card information during processing. To protect yourself, look at ATMs or credit card machines for any devices or covers that could be concealing another machine that is skimming your information.

4. **Phishing**. This refers to spam emails and pop-up messages designed to look like real messages from legitimate companies asking for personal information. Do NOT give your information out to anyone you don't know or websites/companies that you can't validate.
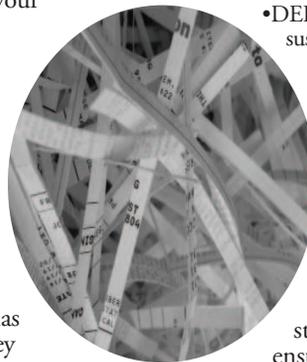
5. **Pretexting**. This involves thieves masquerading as another person to establish trust and to convince you to give up privatized information, typically over the phone or online. Verify who you are talking to. If they only use publicly available information to validate who they are, they are likely scamming you. A recent scam has involved Facebook: Thieves will pose as your friends and claim they are stranded in another country and need a wire transfer. Don't fall for this trick! Verify if your friend is even out of the country or in need of money before sending anything.

6. **"Old-fashioned" stealing**. These criminals prefer the basic means of stealing: purses, wallets, checkbooks, credit/debit cards, bank/billing statements, pre-approved credit offers, new checks, income tax information, or even personnel files from your place of employment are all fair game to them. To protect yourself shred all important information before disposing and don't carry personal information around if it is not needed.

To prevent identity theft, the FTC's advice is to:
- DETER identity thieves by safeguarding your information,
- DETECT suspicious activity by monitoring your financial accounts and billing statements, and
- DEFEND against ID theft as soon as you suspect a problem.

Here are a few additional tips for safeguarding your identity:

- Check through every nook and cranny of anything you plan to sell or donate (be it clothes for Good Will or an old desk on Ebay). You never know where you might find old credit card receipts, statements, or labels initially used to ensure an object's safe return.

- When utilizing WI-FI connections, avoid checking/logging into anything containing personal documentation, unless the site is encrypted (you can ensure this by checking if the beginning of the site address is "https" or if there is a padlock icon in the browser's status bar). You can also use encryption software on your laptop.

- If you use a shared computer either at work, in the library, or in your home; you can make sure your information is safe by clearing the browsing history and cookies when you've completed your session (it is a bit tedious). To do this, simply go to the Control Panel then Internet Options and delete History and Cookies.

If you keep a watchful eye on your finances, credit, and personal items, as well as practice safe web browsing, you should be able to keep the identity thieves away! If you suspect you're the victim of identity theft, file a police report, check your credit reports, notify creditors, and dispute any unauthorized transactions.

What Can skype™ Do for You?

First of all, you might be asking yourself, "What is Skype?" Skype is a Voice Over Internet Protocol.

Skype, with over 350 million registered users, is a program designed to allow for audio and/or visual communication between two computers anywhere in the world completely free of charge. (Please note: it cannot make emergency 911 calls).

The only catch is that both parties must have Skype accounts and be online at the same time. To make communicating easier, Skype does notify you as to when buddies are on/offline and/or willing to communicate, so you can ensure you are online at the same time as them.

Along with the basic communication options, Skype also offers free transferring/call forwarding to other Skype members, instant messaging/group IMs, and conference calling.

Besides its free services, Skype also provides a larger variety of additional options at a nominal fee. For example, with SkypeOut for just $2.95 per month you can have unlimited calling to land lines and cell phones across the U.S. and Canada. If you need to make frequent International calls, there is also the "Unlimited World" plan, that allows for unlimited calls to land lines in 36 countries for just $9.95 per month.

SkypeIn is a service through which you buy an online phone number and others have the ability to dial this number directly from any phone. This allows you to utilize your "phone number" no matter where you are in the world, as long as you log on. A Skype phone number will cost you $18 for three months and $60 for a full year. (Note: if you also have a SkypeOut subscription, your online number costs will be discounted 50%!)

Skype To Go is another convenient option offered by the VoIP gurus. With this option, Skypers have the ability to save a speed dial list within their online account. You can then use any phone to call your Skype To Go number and select one of your saved numbers. Skype To Go allows you to make international calls at Skype rates via your cell phone/home phone; however, your phone company's air time rates will still apply.

The people at Skype have even developed a version of Skype for use on compatible cell phones. Compatible phone options include LG, Nokia, Motorola, Sony Ericsson, & Samsung.

In order to effectively run Skype, you must have sufficient processing power and memory, preferably a broadband connection; speakers/ear pieces; a microphone; & the Skype software. Skype software is FREE and available for download at www.skype.com.

If you run into any issues with a certain feature or can't get something to do what you would like, the Skype website offers downloadable user guides, forms for emailing questions without a foreseeable answer, a comprehensive FAQ section, as well as forums to assist you in getting the answer you're looking for.

Overall, Skype is a great, inexpensive way to communicate throughout the world with friends and family!

Thanksgiving Family Football Games are Great Fun

By Thom W. Conroy

Every Thanksgiving all over the United States, neighborhood football games are organized and played prior to a traditional meal. Students home from college, soldiers on military leave, and visiting relatives can all rally around the good natured competition. The Thanksgiving football game provides an opportunity to catch up on the lives of friends, family, and neighbors and provides a good topic of conversation for the meal.

To schedule a football game, there needs to be one person or family required to act as the coordinator of the activities. In this capacity, it is important that information is communicated clearly as to details concerning start and stop times, rules, and location. It's best to keep an open mind to suggestions that may make for a more enjoyable game, and be certain to give credit where it's due. This responsibility is probably better handled by an individual who is not an overly serious personality and someone who is jovial and light hearted is perfect.

Spreading the word to ensure a good turnout of players and spectators is fairly simple. Two to four neighborhood families will assure a pleasant experience, so contact a few next door buddies and get a commitment to play. Once this is accomplished, negotiate the game rules with one person from each family. This prevents the game from becoming a United Nations Conference with 50 people debating something that should be easily decided.

At the game, every family should bring some refreshments and alcohol should be discouraged. Profanity of any kind or overly aggressive behavior shouldn't be allowed. The game should always be touch-to-tackle or flag football, with a definite ending, whether by score or time.

From personal experience, the best Thanksgiving games were the ones that included the most people alternating in and out of the game. Nothing is funnier than the 60 year old Grandmother catching the winning touchdown and doing an end zone dance. The only problem with this type of game is the inclusion of young kids. I would leave this decision up to the individual parents, however, I would make it clear that accidents happen.

Hopefully, a good time will be had by all with the making of new acquaintances, memories, and shared laughs. Thanksgiving football games are also great photography opportunities so don't forget to take a camera!

Article from Associated Content
www.associatedcontent.com

If you can't find enough people to play a game of football or are too sated from the Thanksgiving feast to move, listed below are a few of the college and pro games played on or near Thanksgiving (all dates and times from ESPN.com):

11/26-Green Bay v. Detroit 12:30pm FOX
11/26-Oakland v. Dallas 4:15pm CBS
11/26-Texas v. Texas A & M 8pm ESPN
11/27-Pittsburgh v. West Virginia TBA
11/27-Alabama v. Auburn 2:30pm CBS
11/27-Nebraska v. Colorado 3:30pm ABC
11/28-Florida State v. Florida TBA
11/28-Virginia Tech v. Virginia TBA
11/28-U.N.C. v. N.C. State TBA
11/29-D.C. v. Philadelphia 1pm FOX

FUN RANDOM FACTS

The very first TV commercial was for Bulova watches in 1941, and it aired during a Dodgers-Phillies game. The spot cost nine dollars.

Contrary to popular belief, there are no wild tigers in Africa. Tigers are native to Asian countries.

A person climbing Mount Everest today would have to go 27 inches farther to reach the peak than Sir Edmund Hillary did in 1953, due to its growth rate of a 1/2 inch per year.

California has more people than the entire population of Canada.

Margarine actually dates back to the 1860s when Emperor Louis Napoleon III of France offered a prize to anyone who could develop a cheap substitute for butter.

Antarctica is actually the driest continent on the planet, receiving very little precipitation annually. So why all the snow on the ground??
--The constant cold has allowed centuries of snowfall to build up without ever melting.

UPCOMING COURSES/SCHEDULE

All classes in Blue marked with a * are offered online

	START DATE	END DATE	PRICE
NOVEMBER 2009			
Websphere Portal Development	11/2	11/6	$2,199
*Oracle 10g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	11/2	11/6	$2,199
BEA Weblogic Portal Development	11/2	11/6	$2,199
Red Hat Linux Essentials	11/2	11/6	$2,398
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Introduction	11/9	11/10	$1,049
Oracle 10g Discoverer R2 Desktop	11/9	11/10	$1,049
Enterprise Java Beans 3.0 Development (EJB)	11/9	11/13	$2,199
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Intermediate	11/11	11/13	$1,499
Oracle 10g Discoverer R2 Administration	11/12	11/13	$1,049
UNIX/Linux Shell Scripting	11/16	11/19	$1,849
*Oracle 10g Foundation: SQL & SQL*Plus	11/16	11/20	$2,199
Oracle 10g Foundation: SQL & SQL*Plus	11/16	11/20	$2,199
Web Services Development	11/16	11/20	$2,199
Introduction to Java and J2EE	11/16	11/20	$2,199
Oracle 10g SQL for Data and Business Analysts	11/23	11/25	$1,499
*Oracle 10g SQL for Business & Data Analysts	11/30	12/2	$1,499
UNIX (Linux) Jumpstart for Experienced IT Developers	11/30	12/4	$2,199
J2EE Development Using Spring & Hibernate	11/30	12/4	$2,199
DECEMBER 2009			
Oracle 11g New Features for Administrators	12/1	12/4	$1,849
*Oracle 10g Release 2 Discoverer for End Users	12/3	12/4	$1,049
Red Hat Linux System Administration-class only	12/7	12/10	$2,498
*Oracle 10g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	12/7	12/11	$2,199
Oracle 10g PL/SQL Introduction and Intermediate	12/7	12/11	$2,199
WebSphere Process Server Administration	12/7	12/11	$2,199
Jboss Application Server Administration	12/7	12/11	$2,199
Red Hat Linux System Administration and RHCT exam	12/7	12/11	$2,698
Red Hat RHCT Exam Only	12/11	12/11	$399
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Introduction	12/14	12/15	$1,049
UNIX Introduction to Commands	12/14	12/17	$1,849
Oracle 10g DBA II	12/14	12/18	$2,199
Enterprise Java Beans 3.0 Development (EJB)	12/14	12/18	$2,199
J2EE Development using Spring with Hibernate & iBatis	12/14	12/18	$2,199
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Intermediate	12/16	12/18	$1,499
JANUARY 2010			
*Oracle 10g Database Administration I	1/4	1/8	$2,199
Oracle 11g Database Administration I	1/4	1/8	$2,199
J2EE Development using Spring, Struts, JSF	1/4	1/8	$2,199
Red Hat Networking & Security Admin.	1/11	1/14	$2,498
UNIX Introduction to Commands	1/11	1/14	$1,849
*Oracle 10g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	1/11	1/15	$2,199
Oracle 11g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	1/11	1/15	$2,199
Introduction to Java and J2EE	1/11	1/15	$2,199
*Oracle 10g SQL for Business & Data Analysts	1/20	1/22	$1,499
Oracle 11g SQL for Business & Data Analysts	1/20	1/22	$1,499
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Introduction	1/25	1/26	$1,049
Oracle 11g PL/SQL Introduction	1/25	1/26	$1,049
UNIX/Linux Shell Scripting	1/25	1/28	$1,849
Red Hat Rapid Track Course-class only	1/25	1/28	$2,698
PERL Programming	1/25	1/28	$1,849
Red Hat RHCE Rapid Track Course and RHCE Exam	1/25	1/29	$2,998
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Intermediate	1/27	1/29	$1,499

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