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## Top Security Threats to Watch Out For

How can hackers get control of your machine and your information? What types of scenarios should you avoid to protect yourself? Here's a few things to keep in mind to help keep you safe:

1. **Downloading Malware** – Always be careful with any downloaded content, even from a known email address. Malware called “Trojan horses” can allow access to your entire system if you download them.
2. **Identity Theft** – With Facebook and Twitter, along with other social networking tools, thieves are using new tactics to steal the identity of users. Since social networking is popular among all ranges of users, criminals are always crafting ways to get any information they can. Be careful about the information that you share on any social networking site.
3. **Mobile Security** - As iPhone use grows, many malware creators are targeting mobile platforms to get data from users. Be cautious about what data you store in your phone, and especially cautious about what applications you install on your phone. Also, have an action plan in place in case you lose the phone or if it gets stolen.
4. **Shortened URLs** – As bit.ly, tiny URL and other URL shorting sites gain popularity on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, it becomes easier for hackers to direct you to malware/spyware sites. These services are designed to allow you to go to a website without having to type in a long URL (i.e. website address), but if they don't point to a legitimate site that you intended, it's easy to end up on a malware-infested location. Be careful when using shortened URLs, and only use them if they were provide to you by a known reliable source.
5. **“Scareware”/“Ransomware”** – You get a popup message saying that your system is infected, but “click here” to download a tool to remove the infection. What you don't realize is that the downloaded “tool” actually IS the virus or malware, and it has now infected your system! Never click on a popup or download software or attachments from sources or sites that you are not familiar with as a reputable source.
6. **Search Hijacking:** As high-profile events occur in the media (like the death of Michael Jackson or Patrick Swayze) there are jumps in searches on the web for these events. Criminals feed on these events as well and create custom tailored attacks for these queries to lure unsuspecting users into traps. These events give attackers easier targets to use. So always be mindful when searching the web.

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**About Desktop Resources, Inc.**

Desktop Resources, Inc. was founded in 1995 by Tony Schafer, and is a leader in helping organizations couple their business initiatives with the technology to address those needs. DRI's "InformIT" managed services offerings proactively manage client infrastructure and strive to prevent problems before they occur. For more details, contact DRI at (317) 596-3650 or <http://www.DesktopResources.com>