

INTERNET BANKING: ARE YOU SAFE ONLINE?

I have your bank account details and your password and I'm not afraid to use it.

It's a scary thought isn't it? Many of us are now turning to using the internet for online banking, and the banks are encouraging this with fewer tellers, charges for using traditional banking methods, shortening bank hours and closing branches. While it is quite convenient to bank online, are we truly safe from the greedy hackers preying on the unsuspecting user?

Hacking has been around since the early 1970's and initially was just viewed as an annoyance or a way to vandalise your PC. Today, however, it's all about getting money for nothing and hackers are looking at how they can profit from the average home or small business user with unsuitable security.

While this all sounds a bit 'Doom and Gloom', there is no reason why you can't be completely safe when banking online. With good advice, the right software and perhaps some training, you can have peace of mind when banking or doing anything else on the internet. Best of all, it can all be achieved without costing you a cent.

To help individuals and small businesses who use the internet for anything: not just banking but everything you do online, Newcastle Computer Training is running a 'Safety on the Net' course. Director of Newcastle Computer Training, Trevor Burndred decided to introduce this course after seeing many computer problems related mostly to poor security.

"We also have a computer repair business and it's shocking how often we see viruses, malicious software, spyware and other annoying bugs that could easily have been avoided" said Mr Burndred.

"It seems the hackers just get smarter and smarter. In the past they were just creating annoying ways to vandalise your PC or hack into your email addresses. In recent years though, it's all about greedy people looking to rip off honest, and sometimes internet naïve, people" Mr. Burndred stated. "Their aim is to get your passwords, watch your browsing history, hack into your email contact list and even get a hold of your banking details" he added.

The first course will run on Thursday, January 21, 2010 from 9am – 1pm. It will cover everything from online safety while banking, getting rid of annoying popups, spyware and viruses to removing those unwanted spam emails, backups and more. The trainer will also be giving advice on how to be completely safe online without spending a cent. So, the only question you need to ask: "Is complete peace of mind online worth a \$99 investment?"

For more information contact Newcastle Computer Training:
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