

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING

BUILD YOUR NETWORK SAFELY WITH THESE HELPFUL TIPS



VERIFY

When meeting someone new take a moment later to verify their credentials.

Look up their company online and confirm the details are accurate.

You can also look them up on professional networking sites, like LinkedIn.

Most contacts you meet will be legitimate, but it's always smart to check before building the relationship.



ASK WHY

Be a healthy skeptic when dealing with new contacts.

If someone takes a special interest in you or a specific project your company is working on, ask yourself why.

They may be gathering information to launch a spear phishing attack against your company.

A skeptical outlook can keep you from revealing too much and can protect you until you've determined that a contact is legitimate.



DON'T ASSUME

Don't immediately assume people are as they appear on the surface.

Cyberthieves have posed as maintenance workers and delivery men and women to gain access to company secrets and property.

While most people you meet will be legitimate, ask for ID or other means of identification if you're not sure.

Trust your instincts, and if you have doubts, check them out.



BE SMART ONLINE

When networking online, be sure to verify, ask 'why' and keep from assuming everything is as it seems.

Phishing, spear phishing and other cybercrimes thrive online because victims give criminals the benefit of the doubt.

Criminals also fool online networkers by faking identities and websites. Or using open source intelligence to scam trusting victims.

CLICK THINKING

