



"In The News..."

President's Message

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The Central Florida Insurance Professionals (CFIP) is very excited about our first general meeting taking place this Wednesday, August 5th at Season's 52 in Altamonte Springs. The event will start promptly at 6pm. *(RSVP is required and I am happy to hear that we have met the required minimum of 20+ to avoid a room charge!)*

The Installation of the Officers will be completed by our own past Regional Vice President, Ginger Hayes, ACSR, PIAM, CPIW, DAE.

I know all of our guests and current members will enjoy the meeting/dinner and we look forward to growing in the upcoming months.

In closing, I invite you to contact any of the Officers or our Director of Membership, Mary Brilliant on how you can become our newest member or Corporate Partner in the *Central Florida Insurance Professionals!*

If you have any questions, please contact me at president@cfipflorida.org or call me direct at 321-246-5648.

Yours in Membership,

Jason Carter

Jason Carter, CPSR, PIAM, CPIM

President

The World of Technology...Passwords!



"Brute Force Attack...."

How many times do we hear that a major corporation has been hacked? In today's society, almost everything is done electronic including our bills, , email, entertainment tickets, stocks, 401K, etc.

When using today's technology and setting up passwords, we often use things that are simple to remember but what we do not know is we are making it easier for our own personal information to be hacked!!!

There are hacker tools that use word-lists in what we call "a dictionary attack". This password breaking software can cover several hundred words a minute until the password is cracked. This works because people use common words for passwords mainly because they are easy to remember.

A simple trick that will make the hackers life much more difficult...

Example: Use complete sentences or phrases as your password and replace certain letters with numbers. My password might be; i belong to cfip.

To make this password more secure, I would capitalize the I and C. I would also remove all of the spaces. IbelongtoCfip. I can go a step further by replacing the o with a zero. Ibel0ngtoCfip. The hacking software can't see the individual words yet it is complex and easy to remember.

Here is another great example of a password. Can you see what it is?

Cany0ugu3ssmyp@ssw0rd?

One of the simplest ways to gain access to your information is through the use of a [Brute Force Attack](#). This is accomplished when a hacker uses a specially written piece of software to attempt to log into a site using your credentials.

Another thing to keep in mind is that some of the passwords you think matter least **actually matter most**. For example, some people think that the password to their e-mail box isn't important because "I don't get anything sensitive there." Well, that e-mail box is probably connected to your online bank account. If one can compromise it then they can log into the Bank's Website and tell it I've forgotten my password to have it e-mailed to them. Now, what were you saying about it being important?



Email Backgrounds... = PROBLEMS!!!!

It may be strange for an "insurance nerd" (that's a compliment, by the way) like me to be writing about a technology issue. Being a heavy user of e-mail each day (normally well over 100), I find those fancy backgrounds that Microsoft makes available (vines, animals, clouds, notepads, etc.) to cause problems and, at the same time, make e-mail much more difficult to read.

Many times, these backgrounds come in as attachments and some servers block attachments. They take up extra disk space. Depending on the font and color used, at times the background may block out the text characters making them unreadable. When responding to e-mails that contain backgrounds, formatting is often affected with extra line feeds added in.

While a plain white background may seem pretty dull and boring, it's really the best way to go with e-mail. It makes your e-mail to the recipient much easier to read and respond to. Think about it, too...how many business letters are sent out on stationary that has photographs of clouds, animals, or tree vines?

So, be dull and boring like me and forego those backgrounds; stick with the default plain white!



"HELP" Needed from our Florida Council Public Relations Chairman

Roslyn is actively looking for our next Fund Raising Liaison for the Florida Council.

Please send an email to Roslyn if you are interested in volunteering for this position. It would be beneficial if you are attending the Council Meeting in Naples this September.

Roslyn Vargas, DBA (ABD), CISR, CPIW, CPIA
Florida Council Public Relations Chairman
rvargas@bellsouth.net

Calling all Corporate Partners....

Corporate Partners are one of our many assets. They contribute to our growth by giving us the ability to promote membership, sponsor scholarships, and can assist in other ways such as supporting functions like educational classes, locations for meetings, website expenses among many other things.

The Corporate Partnership Program was designed to welcome and recognize those businesses interested in partnering with the Central Florida Insurance Professionals. To be eligible for the Corporate Partnership Program, your company must either:

- Be involved in the risk management or insurance industry;*
or
- Provide a product or service related to the insurance industry.*

Although Corporate Partners do not have voting rights or are allowed to hold both elective and appointive office at all levels of the association, we encourage their employees to become members to represent the company at an even higher level.

The benefits are many for all levels of Corporate Partnership with CFIP – please visit our website by clicking the following link

<http://www.cfipflorida.org/apps/webstore/products/category/220964>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Membership, Mary Brilliant at mary_brilliant@cfins.com.

We look forward to a prosperous partnership with your company soon!!



We're on the Web!
www.cfipflorida.org

Board of Directors

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CFIP Communication

COMING SOON!!!

CFIP will have a new way of communicating more efficiently with officer assigned email addresses.

Our Director of Technology is quickly working to provide this information at our next business meeting on August 19th.

