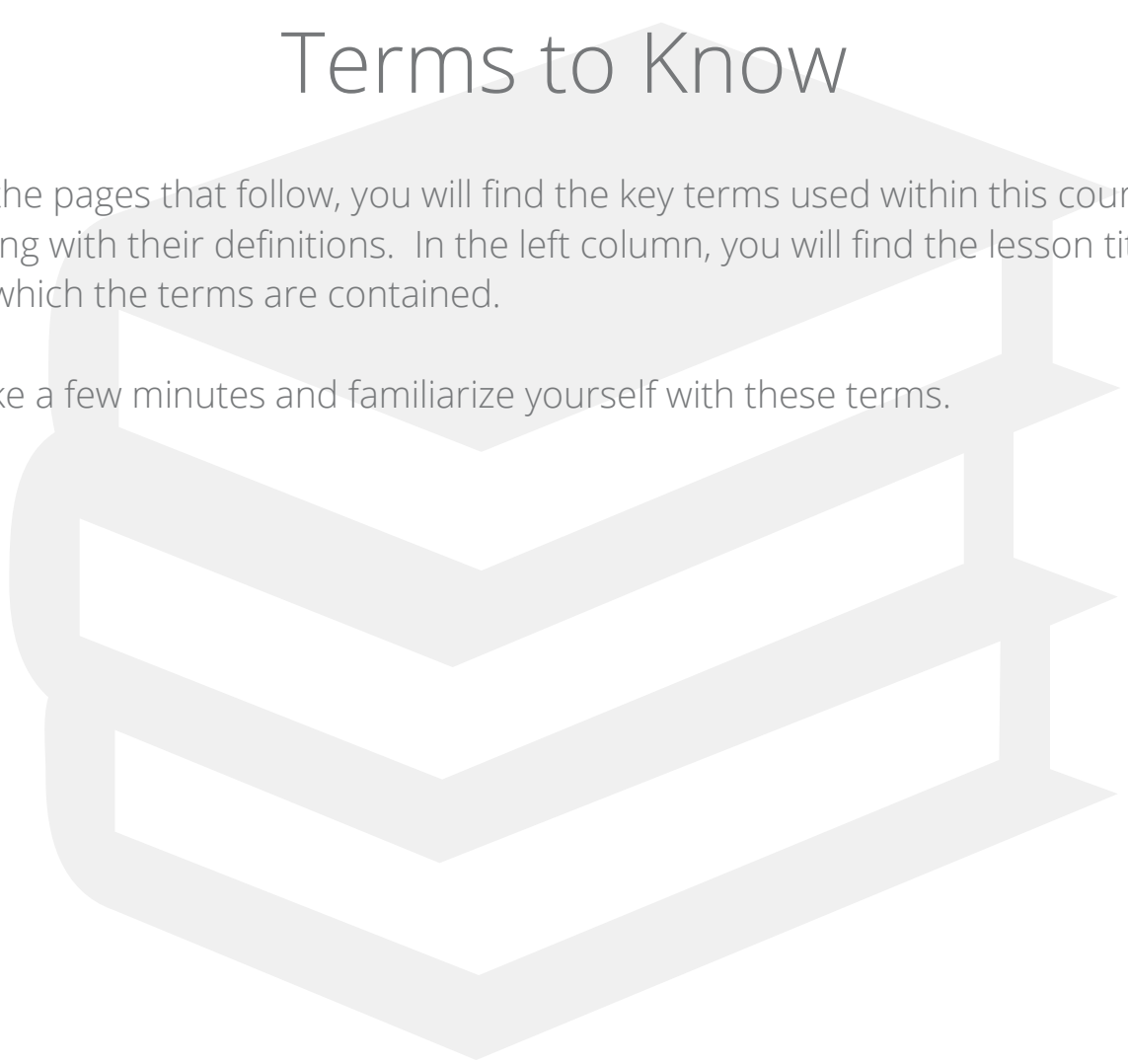# Home Internet Security Course

Terms to Know

In the pages that follow, you will find the key terms used within this course along with their definitions. In the left column, you will find the lesson title in which the terms are contained.

Take a few minutes and familiarize yourself with these terms.

Lesson	Term & Definition
Passwords	**Credentials** A user's authentication information like username and password. **Cracking a Password** "Cracking a password" or "password cracking" is a phrase we use for obtaining a password using malicious means. This may include a hacker trying to retrieve your password by simply guessing or using software to try thousands of password combinations. **Vulnerability** From a computer security standpoint, we use the term vulnerability to represent any weakness in a computer system, hardware or software. **Special Characters** A special character is any non-alphabetic or non-numeric character that you type. (! @ # $ % *)
Online Banking Security	**Phishing** The process of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details by masquerading as a trustworthy source and using bulk email, which tries to evade spam filters. Emails claiming to be from popular social websites, banks, auction sites, or IT administrators are commonly used to lure the unsuspecting public. It's a form of criminally fraudulent social engineering. **Malware** An umbrella term used to refer to a wide range of viruses, worms, Trojans, and other programs that a hacker can use to damage, steal from, or take control of endpoints and servers. Most malware is installed without the infected person ever realizing it.

Terms to Know

Spoof / Spoofing

Tricking or deceiving computer systems or other computer users. This is typically done by hiding one's identity or faking the identity of another user on the internet. Email spoofing involves sending messages from a fake email address or faking the email address of another user. Since people are much more likely to read a message from an address they know, hackers will often spoof addresses to trick the recipient into taking an action they would not normally take.

Ransomware

A type of malware that denies access to a computer system or the files on that system by encrypting (scrambling) the files until a ransom has been paid and then only decrypting (descrambling) the files after payment.

Keeping Your Identity Safe

Breach

"Data Breach" or "security breach" is the term we use to describe any incident resulting in the unauthorized access—and usually theft—of data or computer services.

Hotspot

A Hotspot allows you to get on the internet using your phone instead of Wi-Fi. You use the data connection from your mobile phone. For example, you use your phone's data connection with your laptop so that your laptop now has Internet connectivity.

Encrypted Data

Using a secret key to convert information into an unreadable format to prevent access to the data. Encryption can be used for good or bad purposes. The only way to read encrypted data is to know the secret key.

Due Diligence

Reasonable steps taken by a person in order to satisfy a legal requirement, especially in buying or selling something.

Avoiding Malware

Malware
An umbrella term used to refer to a wide range of viruses, worms, Trojans, and other programs that a hacker can use to damage, steal from, or take control of endpoints and servers. Most malware is installed without the infected person ever realizing it.

Malicious Script
A script, or more specifically "malicious script," is the term we used to describe software that is written to intentionally cause harm to a computer system or its owner. It may be used to breach computer security.

Attack Surface
The "attack surface" is all the points where an attacker can try to penetrate the computer or the network.

Keeping Personal Information Confidential

Operating System
Operating System is the term we use to describe the software that gives a computer system, or other digital device, the ability to perform its basic functions like displaying data on the screen and reading and writing files. For example, Windows 10 is an Operating System.

Social Engineering
The act of manipulating people into performing actions or divulging confidential information.

Protecting Children Online

Illegal Downloads
When we discuss illegal downloads, we typically refer to copyright-protected media (movies, music, games), but this can relate to any type of legally-protected software asset that may require payment to obtain the rights to use it.

Securing Your Home Network

Network
Two or more computers connected for the purpose of sharing resources. The most common resource shared today is connection to the internet. When you connect your phone to your home's Wi-Fi, you are connecting your phone to your home network and through that, you connect to the internet.

Router
Router is the device that connects all your home computers and other devices to the internet.

Guest Network
The term Guest Network is related to home networking. A Guest Network enables you to share your Wi-Fi with temporary visitors, but restrict their access to just the Internet. Visitors do not have access to the other devices on your home network.

WPA2
Short for Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 is a method of securing your network designed for home users.

Wi-Fi
A facility allowing computers, smartphones, or other devices to connect to the internet or communicate with one another wirelessly within a specific limited area.

SSID
(Service Set IDentifier) The name assigned to a Wi-Fi (wireless) network. All devices in the network must use this case-sensitive name to communicate over Wi-Fi, which is a name up to 32 bytes long. Out of the box, wireless routers and access points have a default SSID, which may be the manufacturer's name, such as "linksys" or "netgear" or simply "default."

Terms to Know

Browser

A program that lets you look at a collection of data on a server that is connected to your network or the internet. Browser typically refers to accessing the Web. Some browser names are Internet Explorer, Chrome, Safari, Firefox, etc.

Terms to Know