



June - 2022 Cybersecurity Focus

Happy summer to the RWU Community! Vacation, staycation, or anything in-between, it's a great time to digitally disconnect and relax. In this month's INFOSEC let's start by taking a trip down memory lane: everyone jumping into the car for a ride to the beach. If you go back far enough in time, seat belts were optional and cars did not have auto-locking doors. Safety and security were very relaxed and often an afterthought. Fast forward to the present day. It's now second nature to buckle up and listen for the doors to automatically lock. Although these advancements were much needed, they required new laws and willingness on our part.

A new IT security improvement was recently implemented here at RWU, forcing a second-level authentication, such as a one-time unique passcode, before allowing users access to their computer or email services. This multifactor method (a.k.a. MFA/2FA) is a necessary security control. Important enough that cyber insurance carriers are mandating their policyholders use it or risk getting dropped! Analogous to seat belt laws, MFA requires some action on our part. First, your mobile phone is now a critical prerequisite to the daily login process. Second, an "authenticator" app is required to install. And finally, a little extra patience is needed after finding a comfortable seat to do some work, but realize your phone is in the other room and you need it to login.