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## ua.InfoSec Monthly Update

September 2009

### Sec-U-R-IT-y Tips | Browser Cookies

Did you know your computer stores "browser" cookies that track and store information about you almost every time you go on the Internet? You can manage the use of browser cookies on your computer to mitigate privacy and security risks. This month's security tip, available at <http://security.arizona.edu/files/sept2009securitytip.pdf>, will help you understand and manage traditional browser cookies.

In addition to traditional browser cookies, more than half of the Internet's top websites use a little known capability of Adobe's Flash plug-in to track users and store information about them, UC Berkeley researchers have reported. These cookies are not controlled through a browser's privacy controls. To learn more, go to <http://www.wired.com/epicenter/2009/08/you-deleted-your-cookies-think-again/>.

### Securing UA | Protect Your Computer With Free Resources

By taking ten basic steps, you can protect your home computer, information and personal identity when using the Internet. Visit the InfoSec website at <http://security.arizona.edu/topten> for instructions on each of the ten steps and links to free resources for Windows and Mac computers.

### News | Social Engineers Lure Victims to Risky Websites With Celebrity Images

Actress Jessica Biel has overtaken Brad Pitt as the most dangerous celebrity to search online. To read how cybercriminals use interest in popular celebrities to encourage the download of malicious software, go to <http://www.internetnews.com/breakingnews/article.php/3836271>.

### Resources | Security Boot Camp

To help IT security professionals sharpen their skills, InfoWorld is offering a free, 20-lesson "Security Boot Camp" online class. The class is conducted via e-mail, with registrants getting one assignment each workday. The assignments connect the theory of best security practices with the hands-on reality of implementing such advice. Class begins September 21. For more information or to sign up, go to <http://ifwnewsletters.newsletters.infoworld.com/t/5665904/573460144/213732/0/>.

### Tools | Browser Phishing Filters

Online "phishing scams" typically attempt to lure you into visiting phony web sites where your personal or credit card information can be collected for criminal use. This form of identity theft is growing quickly on the Web. Tip #9 at <http://security.arizona.edu/topten> provides links to features for popular browsers that detect potential phishing scams.

One of these features has proved to be especially effective. The feature included with Microsoft's Internet Explorer 8 (IE8) browser blocked 81% of malware-infected websites. Other statistics indicate that IE8's Smart Screen Filter delivered more than 80 million malware blocks over a four-month period and during the pre-release period – an average of one block a week for every 40 users. Approximately one of every 200 downloads was blocked as potentially malicious. Read more at [http://www.pcworld.com/article/170260/microsofts\\_browser\\_best\\_at\\_beating\\_malware.html?tk=rss\\_news](http://www.pcworld.com/article/170260/microsofts_browser_best_at_beating_malware.html?tk=rss_news) and <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2247880/ie8-carries-80-million-malware>.

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