

Paw Prints

Volume 26
Issue 4

October 2026
cufatcats.org

*It's cybersecurity
awareness month!*



Let's Learn About Online Safety

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, so let's learn what cybersecurity means and why it's important.

Cybersecurity is how we protect our devices like computers, phones, and tablets from people trying to steal our information or trick us into doing something that may not be safe. Whether you're doing schoolwork, playing games, watching videos, or looking to see how much you've saved in your FAT CAT® Share Account, it is important to follow rules and use tools to help protect yourself and your information.

- Make sure a parent or caregiver is around when you go online.
- Let them know if you see or hear something that seems strange.
- Always ask permission before downloading any games, songs, or apps.
- Never click on ads or messages that pop up on videos and games, no matter how fun they look.
- Learn about passwords and why they should be strong.
- Be very careful when talking to or connecting with other people online.

Being online can be fun, but it's smart to treat online spaces like you would if you were in a place with a group of people. Don't talk to strangers, keep your information private, and make sure your parents or caregivers are close by to help keep you safe.

Parents' Corner

What you can do to protect your children

Online access is a part of everyday life for many kids. Here are a few tips that can help you keep them safe.

- Manage parental controls and app settings.
- Secure your home network by ensuring it is private and password protected.
- Keep an open line of communication so your children feel comfortable talking with you about their online activity.
- Stay aware and accessible when your kids are online.
- Explain the difference between private information and information that's okay to share.
- Watch for red flags in apps, on social media, and on gaming platforms.
- Learn about cyberbullying and how to address it.

Complete the activity!

View previous winners in FAT CAT's Art Gallery at www.cufatcats.org!

Send in your completed activity along with your full name, address, and age by **December 1, 2026** for the chance to win in a random drawing. Winners will receive a FAT CAT backpack!

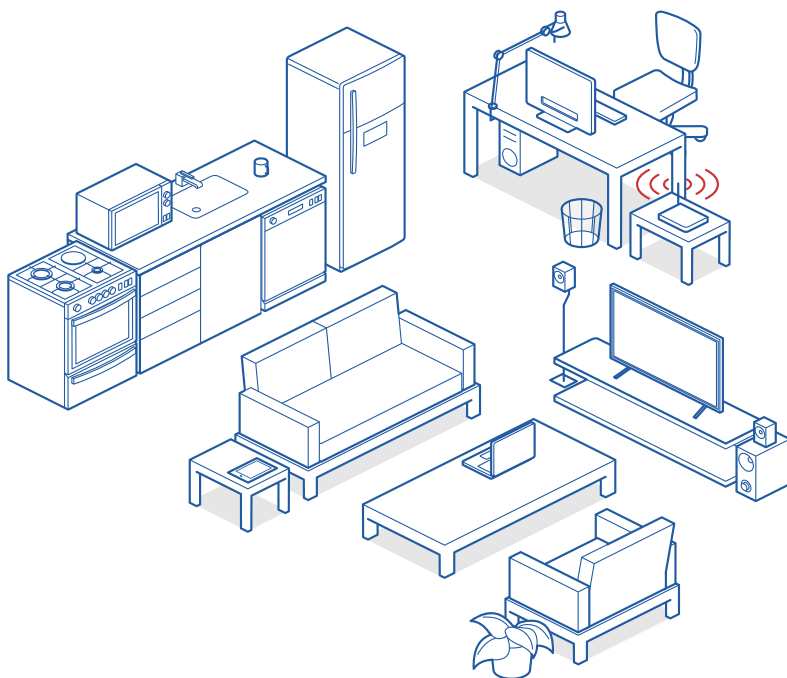
Why do we protect our devices?

The internet can be a cool place with lots of information and fun things like games, music, and videos! Unfortunately, not everyone online is a friend. Some people go on computers to cause trouble and trick others.

The computers and other devices in your home need to be protected by passwords so that strangers don't try to steal information or infect files with a digital virus.

There might be many devices in your home that need passwords to protect them.

Look at the picture below and circle the electronics that connect to the internet and need to be protected by passwords.



Answer: Smart appliances, smart speakers, wi-fi routers, tablets, smart TVs, computers

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS:

If you are willing to have your child's submission published in the newsletter and/or on the cufatcats.org website, please complete, sign, and mail this form in along with your child's submission. We will not publish your child's last name or street address. Thank you!

Child's full name: _____ Child's age: _____

Parent/Guardian full name: _____

Parent/Guardian address: _____

Please check each statement that applies. I give State Employees' Credit Union permission:

- ☐ to publish my child's first name, age, and hometown in FAT CAT Paw Prints and/or on the cufatcats.org website.
- ☐ to publish my child's artwork or story in FAT CAT Paw Prints and/or on the cufatcats.org website.

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Date _____

Email a photo of this page to marketing@ncsecu.org, or submit your entry at your local branch or by mail:
FAT CAT - State Employees' Credit Union, PO Box 27948, Raleigh, NC 27611.