

Is Your Digital Information Safe? – Rey

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, an initiative created by the Department of Homeland Security to ensure every American has the resources they need to stay safe and more secure online. As we become more dependent on and comfortable with technology, scammers and hackers are becoming more sophisticated. Here are a few preventative methods from the Department of Homeland Security to protect yourself and your family from cyber attacks:

- **Never click on links in emails.** If you do think the email is legitimate, whether from a third party retailer or primary retailer, go to the site and log on directly.
- **Never open the attachments.** Typically, retailers will not send emails with attachments. If there is any doubt, contact the retailer directly and ask whether the email with the attachment was sent from them.
- **Keep your operating system, browser, anti-virus and other critical software up to date.** Security updates and patches are available for free from major companies.
- **For email, turn off the option to automatically download attachments.** Although a convenient feature, it could automatically download malicious software.

Raymond James' Investor Access web site is also using new methods for their clients with two new security features:

- **Dual Factor Login.** In addition to using your usual login information, you get a one-time PIN sent by text or a phone call. This makes it extremely hard for your account to be hacked.
- **Client Vault.** The Client Vault is an encrypted online 'cloud' storage that allows us to send and receive documents between us and you. This feature is much safer than email, and will be our default going forward.