Note that the year 2026, this month we are giving you some of the 2025 Cybersecurity Trends that will continue to shape the digital landscape in 2026. Cybersecurity trends are patterns in how attackers operate and how technology evolves. Understanding them can help you protect your data and stay ahead of risks.

1 Watch for Tax Fraud Scams

It is important to keep an eye on your email for any suspicious messages that ask for tax information. As tax season approaches, cybercriminals will try to send out phishing emails in an attempt to steal your personal information. These attackers often pretend to be someone you recognize, such as an employer or the IRS. If you find an email in your Marist mailbox requesting your W-2 forms, or other tax information, and are unsure if it's a phishing attempt, please report it to phishing@marist.edu.

2 AI in Cyber Attacks

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used by attackers to make scams smarter and harder to spot. For example, AI can generate convincing fake messages or mimic someone's writing style. AI is also used for creating deepfakes which are meant to impersonate someone and can be damaging to one's reputation. Attackers are also using AI to conduct research for them, meaning attackers can string together attacks easily. Ensure to carefully review everything.

3 Ransomware Evolution

Among the 2025 trends, ransomware continues to be a top threat. Ransomware is where attackers lock your files and demand payment, and attackers are becoming more aggressive with it. Not only will they encrypt your files, but they will take your data and leak sensitive information. Ensure to regularly backup your files and store them in a different location for easier recovery.

March 31st is WORLD BACKUP DAY!

Friendly reminder: Marist will never ask for your Marist account password or Cisco Duo Code.
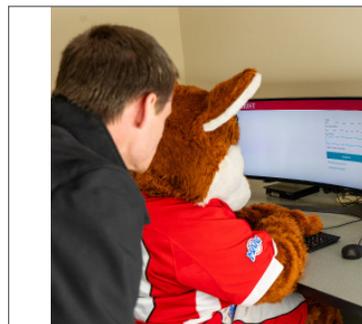
Don't Get Locked Out—Update Your Duo App Today (It Only Takes a Minute!)

Starting February 2, Duo began phasing out older versions, which may cause intermittent login issues. To keep everything running smoothly, please update your Duo Mobile app to version 4.85.x or higher by March 31, 2026 as you will be unable to authenticate.

Check out our new Cyber Blogs written by staff and students.

https://www.marist.edu/information-security/cyber-blog

New Phish-Bowl Video Series
Don't Share The Keys: Protect your passwords & MFA codes

https://www.marist.edu/cybersecurity-videos

See more cybersecurity resources by checking out the Information Security Website: marist.edu/information-security