Cheers to Safe Cybershopping!

Top tips to help keep you cyber secure during the most wonderful time of the year

In the U.S. alone, shoppers are expected to spend $151 billion online this holiday season. During peak online periods, the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) wants everyone to be extra careful and safeguard themselves against scammers, hackers and cybercriminals – who are actively on the hunt. Before you purchase those holiday gifts, it is important to be aware of some simple, actionable steps you can take to protect highly personal data like credit card numbers and friends and family's addresses.

NCSA's Top Cyber Safe Shopping Tips

• **Join Update Cat and his feline friends and #UpdateMeow:** Before going on the prowl for that gotta-get gift, help protect all web-connected devices with the latest updates for your security software, web browser and operating system.

• **Lock down your login:** One of the most critical things you can do in preparation for the online shopping season is to fortify your online accounts by enabling the strongest authentication tools available, such as a unique one-time code through an app on your mobile device. Your usernames and passwords are not enough to protect key accounts like email, banking and social media.

• **When in doubt, throw it out:** When everyone is busy and preoccupied with friends, festivities and holiday fanfare, links in emails, posts and texts are often the ways cybercriminals try to steal your information or infect your devices.