VALPO VIRAL

News and Updates from the Office of Information Technology

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ONECARD REPLACEMENTS: FACULTY AND STAFF

In January of 2023 we began rolling out our new Valpo OneCards which give campus users the ability to 'tap' instead of swipe at most of the doors on campus. This makes entry to buildings and rooms across campus faster and now that we have worked through getting our students' cards upgraded, we would like to extend the opportunity to faculty and staff!

We are now inviting faculty and staff to trade their old OneCard for a new contactless card for FREE! In addition to the contactless feature, with this upgrade you get your choice of a cool new image! Choices for images include our mascots: Beacon and Blaze, our Victory Bell, or our Beacon logo! We can even replace your picture with a more current image!

To make things flow more smoothly, we are using the schedule below for faculty and staff card trade-ins. Please remember that our Help Desk is staffed by students and can get very busy at times, especially at the beginning of each new semester. Your patience is appreciated!

Schedule:
- **December**- Staff from Facilities Management, Building Services, Student Life, Advancement
- **January:** All Faculty and college administration staff
- **February:** All remaining staff areas

As always, we will replace cards for free if they are worn from regular use, but replacement cards will continue to be $15. Remember that this free offer is only happening during the stated times and is for trade-in cards only. If you do not have a card to trade in, you will be charged a replacement fee.

Come visit us for your contactless card! Stop by the IT Help Desk on the ground floor of the Christopher Center during our regular semester hours!

IT Help Desk Hours
Sunday: 12pm-4pm
Mon-Thurs.: 8am-8pm
Friday: 8am-5pm
Saturday: 10am-5pm

Tips and Reminders: Free Downloads and Computer Security

Recently, IT has seen some malware on campus computers that originated from software downloaded and installed from the Internet. Some of the more common ones we've seen recently that have contained malware are DVD burning or playing software, torrent software, coupon printing software, and PDF viewers/editors.

There are several scenarios that may lead you to go searching for free software, such as needing to fill out a form or needing to open a specific type of file that your computer can't directly open. When you go searching for software online, frequently the first results returned by a search engine are ads and may not be the best software, or even legitimate software to accomplish what you're looking for. These ads could be purchased by threat actors who want to install malware on your computer. They don't purchase these ads while hoping for no benefit at all to themselves. At the very least you may be installing ad-supported software, which may present additional malware dangers if you were to click on any of the ads.

Even if what you click on isn't an ad you need to always ask yourself "what is the benefit of someone providing this to me at no cost?" This can be tricky, but IT is here to help!

Please remember that while some free software is legitimate, and we do make use of it, not all free software is safe software. So, with that in mind, the next time you need software installed, please reach out to IT by emailing us at helpdesk@valpo.edu and let us know what you are looking for. We can then help you navigate to the best option and help keep our campus computers safe!

IT Updates-

- The first wave of CyberRisk Aware training is underway! Be sure to have your training completed by December 1st.
- Tech Support continues to upgrade office computers! We are currently working our way through FM and the ARC.

Tips from Tech Support

When walking away from your computer, keep it safe by locking the screen! This can be done easily by holding down the Windows key and pressing the letter 'L' on a PC or pressing the Control key, Command key and the letter 'Q' on a Mac.