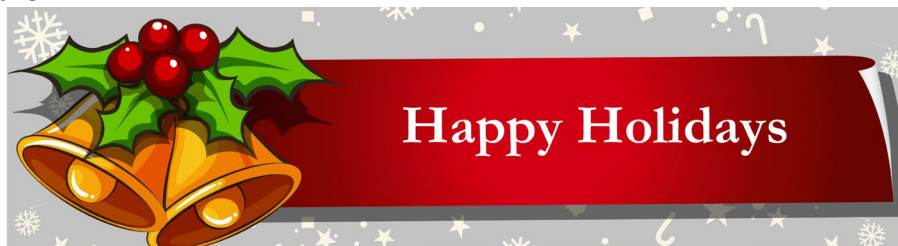




THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**

Biological Sciences Division  
Information Security Office

December 2023



## Cybersecurity Awareness Newsletter

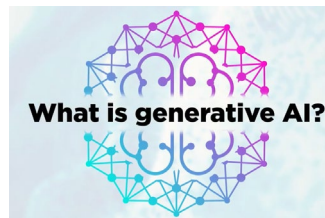
**Protecting yourself and information from cybersecurity threats.**

We trust that the knowledge gained from our BSD ISO Cybersecurity Newsletters has empowered you throughout 2023. In recognition of your dedication and commitment to staying informed, we are thrilled to introduce our “Newsletter Understanding Competition,” featuring an exciting prize. As a unique end-of-year gift, we will personally craft a pen for one lucky individual who answers the Newsletter questions below. The recipient will be chosen randomly from the pool of responses. More details at the end of the Newsletter.



As we end the year, I wanted to go over the importance of buying electronic goods from trusted and reliable sources. There has been a rise in many counterfeit electronics, toys, and even medicine. Counterfeit goods can be very dangerous, and we should always be aware of where we are shopping for our computing components. This month I want to go over the purchasing of computing goods from reputable sources and how to spot an unreliable source which can

save us a lot of time, money, and the stress that comes with purchasing from unreliable sources. Before we get into this topic, I want to share some links from the Privacy Office regarding generative AI.



- UChicago Medicine Information Security Office and Privacy Program (Requires Authentication)
  - <https://home.uchicagomedicine.org/sites/information-security-office/sitepages/genai.aspx>
- Generative AI (Video)
  - [https://players.brightcove.net/719220616001/default\\_default/index.html?videoId=6341911898112](https://players.brightcove.net/719220616001/default_default/index.html?videoId=6341911898112)

### **Purchasing of Electronic Computing Goods**

Where we purchase and who we purchase from is important when it comes to electronic computing goods. Desktops, laptops, tablets, phones, smart watches, etc. are all significant investments that greatly impact our productivity and lifestyle. Purchasing from reputable manufacturers and vendors typically gives us high-quality products. Sometimes reputable manufacturers do experience degradation in quality, but they typically meet and comply with industry standards. What does it mean when something complies with industry standards?

It means minimizing legal liability where having a reliable product could be a safety concern.



It means complying with laws and regulations for how a product functions.



It means receiving a product with an expected behavior.



We can expect:

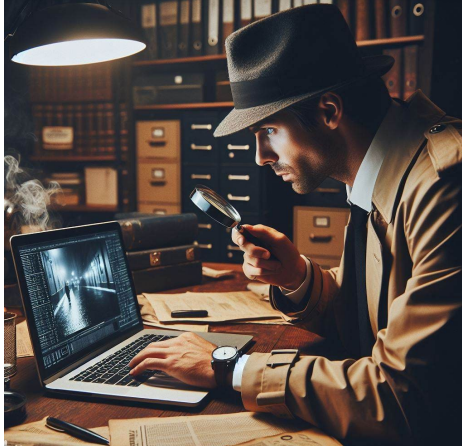
- Significant reduction in acquiring substandard goods.
- Customer support and warranty (sometimes with extra/extended support options)
- After sale support, in case of any issue with the product.
- A fair return policy.
- Security peace of mind that the goods you receive have not been altered or tampered with.

## Source of Legitimacy

How do we tell if we are purchasing from legitimate sources?

The dead giveaways:

- **Reputation of the seller** – Check for complaints or negative reviews from a Google search or independent reviews.
- **Price** may seem too good to be true. Search the web for the ongoing market value of a product.
- **Privacy Policy** – All online stores should have a privacy policy that outlines how your personal information will be handled and used by the seller.
- **Seller contact information** – If their e-mail address bounces or their physical address does not exist.
- **Secure payment method** – Payment has a properly secured method for making a payment.
- **Goods are misrepresented** in picture, have misspelled words, or incorrect descriptions.
- **Refund and return policy** – If a policy does not exist or is too complicated, it is likely to be fraudulent.



As new vendors come online, it is getting harder and harder to make a distinction between vendors that sell reputable goods and vendors that sell counterfeit goods. The US Chamber of Commerce has been aware of all the complaints from consumers and businesses who have fallen victim to online fraud and deception. The Chamber has been working with law enforcement, policymakers, and industry leaders to combat the growing threat of counterfeit goods and protect the integrity of e-commerce.



## U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

More information on what the US Chamber of Commerce is doing to combat this:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l0YSN1X\\_bw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l0YSN1X_bw)

Need to report counterfeit goods? Reporting can be done here:

<https://www.uschamber.com/program/global-innovation-policy-center/shop-smart-2>

### **Purchasing a Computer**

Computers are essential tools for work, education, shopping, and entertainment. Therefore, it is crucial to invest in a computer that guarantees quality and security. Avoiding counterfeit goods ensures that your computer has not been compromised even before it reaches you, providing you with peace of mind.



When purchasing systems for institutional use, it is always best to first check with your support teams for suggestions on the type of system you are looking for to accommodate your needs. They can provide valuable insights based on their technical expertise and understanding of the institution's specific requirements. This will ensure that the system you choose not only meets your current needs, but also has the flexibility to adapt to future demands.

### **Newsletter Understanding Competition**

The prize up for grabs is a Majestic Jr. Rollerball pen in Chrome and Gunmetal finish with a diamond cast body from McKenzie Pen Works. Per McKenzie Pen Works, their pen blanks contain real diamond dust! To enter answer two questions:

- 1) Why should you not purchase computers from unreliable sources?
- 2) What topics would you like us to cover in a future cyber security newsletter?
- 3) Send your response to [security@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:security@bsd.uchicago.edu).

A winner will be chosen from those who responded by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

As always, we welcome your feedback and any suggestions for topics that you would like us to cover in the next newsletter. Please send us an e-mail at [security@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:security@bsd.uchicago.edu).