

## Use Your EAP to Avoid Cyber Nightmares

Shortly before 7AM on March 7<sup>th</sup>, seven federal agents broke down the back door of a Buffalo, NY businessman's house and seized his computer on suspicion that he had downloaded child pornography the day before. In a published *Buffalo News* article, the businessman stated that "some of the agents grabbed me and dragged me down the stairs. I was lying there with all these guns pointed at me." But perhaps most chilling was his observation that "for 90 minutes, they treated me like there was absolutely no question or doubt that I was guilty." (*Buffalo News, March 18, page one*) Several days later the U.S. Attorney issued an apology and revealed that the actual criminal was a neighbor who had "leached" onto the innocent businessman's unprotected wireless Internet service to download hundreds of pornographic images. In an apology to the businessman, the U.S. Attorney stated, "This case serves as a warning to all users of wireless Internet service. Ensure that your service is password protected – there are those who may breach your privacy and use your service for criminal purposes which may, in turn, cause well-intentioned law enforcement officers to follow the trail of evidence that leads right into your home."

While the digital age has greatly enhanced our lives it also presents great risk to those uninformed of its inherent dangers. Among the most common are "phishing" scams which have grown increasingly sophisticated in recent years. According to NetworkWorld.com, cybercriminals sent out over 3.7 billion phishing e-mails last year, 55% of which were fake bank messages. Over 1 million unsuspecting individuals were convinced they were being contacted by their banks and disclosed personal information. Clearly, the crude phishing lures of yesteryear from "Nigerian royalty" looking to park millions in your bank account have been replaced with messages that require skill in detecting fraud.

Fortunately, you can turn to your EAP for specific guidance in avoiding these and many other cyber hazards that threaten your personal and financial security. Simply go to [www.EducatorsEAP.com](http://www.EducatorsEAP.com) and select the red **Employee & Family Login**, register and click on to the **Cyber Safety Resource Center** which can be found under Featured Solutions.



There you will find a wealth of essential information including:

- **Password Security** -- information the Buffalo businessman *should* have known.
- **E-mail, Spam and Phishing** -- be sure to check out *Catch a Phish: Take the Quiz* which will challenge you to discern the differences between fake and legitimate e-mails.
- **Keeping Kids Safe** – from "sexting" to cyber-bullying, everything a responsible parent *must* know to protect children.
- **Identity Theft** – as we consumers become more knowledgeable, the thieves become more clever! This is *vital* information for anyone who engages in Internet commerce.
- **e-commerce** -- proactive information from a wide variety of trusted sources to ensure your on-line security.

Be safe by being informed. Log-on today!