

# Please Mind Your Step – Squatting Pan

As I walked into the restroom in the airport in Singapore I saw a sign on one of the doors that said “Please Mind Your Step – Squatting Pan”. It seemed like good security advice to me, so I’m sharing a little bathroom humor with you this month!



*Randy Abrams*

I’ve been writing “Ask the Experts” columns here for a year now. We kicked off the New Year with tips on passwords. The tips were designed to help you come up with passwords that are strong, yet easy to remember. Passwords are very important, if you don’t have a good one and you don’t change it often, well, please mind your step...

In February, we moved to the Valentine’s Day hoaxes that try to trick you into installing really nasty software on your computer. The advice really was about email handling in general. Just because the return address is from someone you know, it doesn’t mean they sent it. Email addresses are easily spoofed. When you receive email, especially when it contains an attachment you are not expecting, “Please mind your step” is sage advice.

March brought a caution about IRS phishing scams. I would say that these scams are right around the world, but they don’t stop at the end of tax season, so they are with us year round. When you get an official looking email, validate it. Do not just assume that it came from your bank, the IRS, eBay, or any other organization. In other words, please mind your step.

April and May brought information about the perils of business center computers and wireless access points. If you use a business center computer, all of the data you type on the keyboard could potentially be stolen or found on the computer later. When you connect to a wireless access point, if you are not using proper security measures, such as a VPN, or only visiting sites using SSL, your data can be sniffed. Recently, a blogger discovered her web site had been hacked. She believes they got her password when she typed it in on an unsecured wireless access point. Once again, public computers and access points call for a bit of vision about where you might be stepping.

I won’t recap the whole year for you, but I think that this simple sign on a restroom stall in Singapore truly sums up computer security. Security software is important, but even more important is your computing habits. Computers are habitual liars – take everything they tell you with a grain of salt. If you don’t mind your step, you may be stepping into an unpleasant situation.

If you ever have any computer security questions or topics you would like to have translated from geek speak to human speak, please feel free to shoot me an email at [askeset@eset.com](mailto:askeset@eset.com).



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