



Independent Writers of Chicago

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HOW SECURE ARE YOU?
INDEPENDENT WRITERS OF CHICAGO
HEAR HOW TO PROTECT ONE'S PRIVACY ON THE NET**

Never mind that writers are an insecure lot anyway. But in terms of the Internet, security becomes an issue that, when breached, can make a fine mess of your life. Fortunately, *that's* the kind of insecurity we can actually do something about! At the next IWOC meeting on Tuesday, January 10th, Bruce Carlson, principal at Technology Made Simple, Inc., will disclose how to maximize your security and maintain your privacy on your laptop, tablet or smart phone.

Remember when ducking into a telephone booth provided all the privacy you needed? Since communications vehicles have morphed beyond the mere telephone, we've become frighteningly more vulnerable. E-mail...Texting...Social media...Audio and videoconferencing...Remote access...File sharing – all are red meat to hackers. Often, a weak password is all they need to gain entry. Once they do, their methods for creating havoc are myriad and insidious, ranging from viruses, spyware and malware to spoofing, spamming, phishing and slamming. Yes, there are tools to minimize these attacks. But like cockroaches, hackers always manage to adapt.

So what do you do? How can you not only protect yourself, but know what actions to take should you suspect you've been hacked? For the answers, come to the meeting where Mr. Carlson will provide you with the tools for a happy, secure and privacy-protected New Year!

The IWOC meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 10th at National-Louis University, Room 5033, 122 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Networking begins at 5 p.m. The main program is at 6 p.m. Admission is free to IWOC members. Nonmembers, \$15. (\$10 if pre-registered at <http://www.iwoc.org/calendar.htm>. Click on "January 10th IWOC Meeting.") Following the meeting, attendees are invited to go to a nearby restaurant for a buy-your-own dinner to further discuss writing-related topics or to continue networking. For more information, call 800-804-IWOC (800-804-4962) or visit www.iwoc.org.

IWOC is a nonprofit professional association of freelance writers who work primarily throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Together, IWOC members represent a broad range of writing talents, consultation services, and specialties serving large corporations, small businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

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