

OPSEU Local 560
Your Seneca College
Faculty Union

February 16, 2011

Contact your union at:

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or

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THE LOCAL

EXPRESS

E-PAYROLL SYSTEM — IDENTITY THEFT ALERT

The college has eliminated paper payroll stubs, and created an e-payroll site on Blackboard. Access requires your Seneca username and password. The site has payroll information, your SIN number, bank-account information, and other personal and financial information. Everything needed for identity theft is there.

Several of our members, experts with computer security matters, advise us that there are serious security issues with the college's system. Here's what they told us:

The biggest concern is the fact that the e-payroll system uses the same username and password as Blackboard. There should be no connection at all between the academic system and the e-payroll system with all its financial and personal information.

Most of us teach in electronic classrooms or labs. Our computer use is highly exposed. It is easy, for example, for you to open your Blackboard site, and while logging in, inadvertently type your password in the username line, so a whole class, or someone standing close by, can see your password. Further, many faculty select easy-to-remember passwords that are easy for hackers to reconstruct.

It is a recipe for disaster. There are two things that the college needs to do quickly.

First, separate COMPLETELY the payroll administration and academic systems.

Second, remove all administrative functions (especially human resources) from the academic Blackboard system.

Until these necessary changes are accomplished, you should use extreme caution any time you use your Seneca username and password.