



Digital Alumni Association: Scary Technology Issues and How to Prevent Them



Don't Be Afraid of Issues With Your Devices

October's Tech Tips are the Pick of the Patch

It's spooky season – but reaching your goals isn't just witchful thinking! We are so proud of how hard you're working to improve your digital skills, even when it is a little scary at times.

No module has been a monster that you've run away from. As you keep learning, we are here to celebrate your wins and help you through the most haunting challenges. Keep up the great work!



Turn These Chills into Treats With Vantage's IT Team

When scary computer issues come up, Vantage Aging has a great IT team to help you through them. If you have questions about your digital devices, the IT department is happy to help you. In the meantime, check out these tips from Valynn, IT Director Sef, and Kaiden.



Handling Spooky Spills on Your Devices

Valynn

One scary thing that could happen is liquid spilling on a device. If water is spilled on an electronic device, you may be able to salvage it by immediately powering it off. You can do this by holding the power button down to force a fast shutdown. Then, unplug the device from the power source, and leave it to dry completely for at least 2-3 days before plugging it back in. If a device is not using electricity when water gets on its internal circuits, it can survive!

Of course, with liquids that contain sugar, such as coffee or soda, it's best to take a toothbrush or gentle cleaning brush with 99% isopropyl alcohol and clean up the residue. If a sugary drink gets inside a device, I recommend taking it to a repair shop to have it opened up and cleaned before powering it on.



Run!!! From Ransomware

Sef

Ransomware is a form of malware that encrypts all the files on your computer and holds them hostage until a ransom is paid. It then provides a way to unlock the files. Ransomware is mostly spread through phishing emails that contain attachments or links.

Don't let ransomware sink its teeth into your digital devices. Here are some things you can do.

1. Sef's Most Important Tip - Save a backup of your files on your computer daily or weekly. This will allow you to restore your system to an early state. Windows 10 & 11 have a built-in Backup and Restore feature that can save data to an external hard drive.
2. Install reputable anti-malware software with a firewall enabled.

3. Avoid opening attachments from people you don't know or on links in an email that you were not expecting.



All Together Ooky Viruses

Kaiden

They're creepy and they're kooky – they're viruses that can harm your device. One of the best ways to avoid downloading viruses is to always be cautious when downloading.

One good general tip is to look at the file type. For example, if you are downloading a pdf, you should see the file ending in .pdf when you download it. If you ever see a file ending in .exe, .zip, or .rar when downloading a file like a pdf, word doc, or picture, it's unsafe for your device.

You can use this article about [how to check if a file has a virus](#) for more ways to stay safe. The first half the article talks about VirusTotal, where you can submit download links or files to scan for a virus before you download it. Remember, this website can be great but is not always correct. It can be a good resource, but it shouldn't be used as the only step in the process.



Learner Spotlight: Shelia

They say you're never too old to keep learning, and that's certainly true for Tuscarawas County native Shelia Jackson. Over the years, Shelia has combined her curiosity for learning with a love of helping others to build a unique career path that has touched communities across the United States.

Now in a new chapter, she is gaining digital skills and working towards her employment goals in the new Digital Inclusion Training as

Vantage Aging's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

[Learn More](#)



Digital Navigator Spotlight: Hannah

Hello! I am Hannah Goodrick, one of the Digital Navigators with the Digital Inclusion program at Vantage, and I'm from Akron. It has been wonderful being part of the Digital Inclusion program, seeing so many of you move toward new chapters in your lives as computer literate job seekers.

Like the "scary" things that can happen to your computer, changing starting a new chapter in life can be scary. However, it can also be exciting and an opportunity for growth.

I hope that you all begin this October with a mindset open to change and starting a new chapter. You can join me as I do the same thing getting married on October 1st and while this big change has some scary moments, I am more excited for the opportunity to grow into the next chapter of my life.

Looking for More Information?

Here are some scary-good resources to check out from the Ohio Department of Aging.

[Ohio Department of Aging](#)

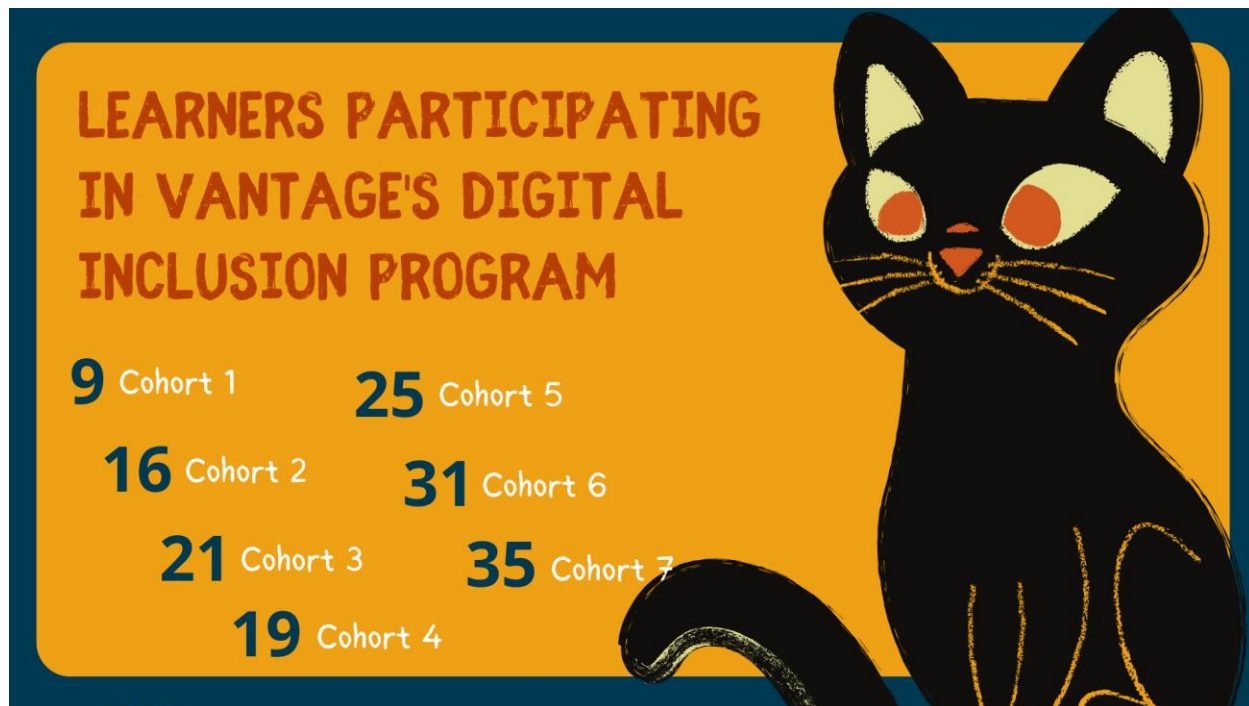
[Staying Connected Check-in Service, Ohio Department of Aging](#)

[Creating a Safe Environment, Ohio Department of Aging](#)

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Join Our Team

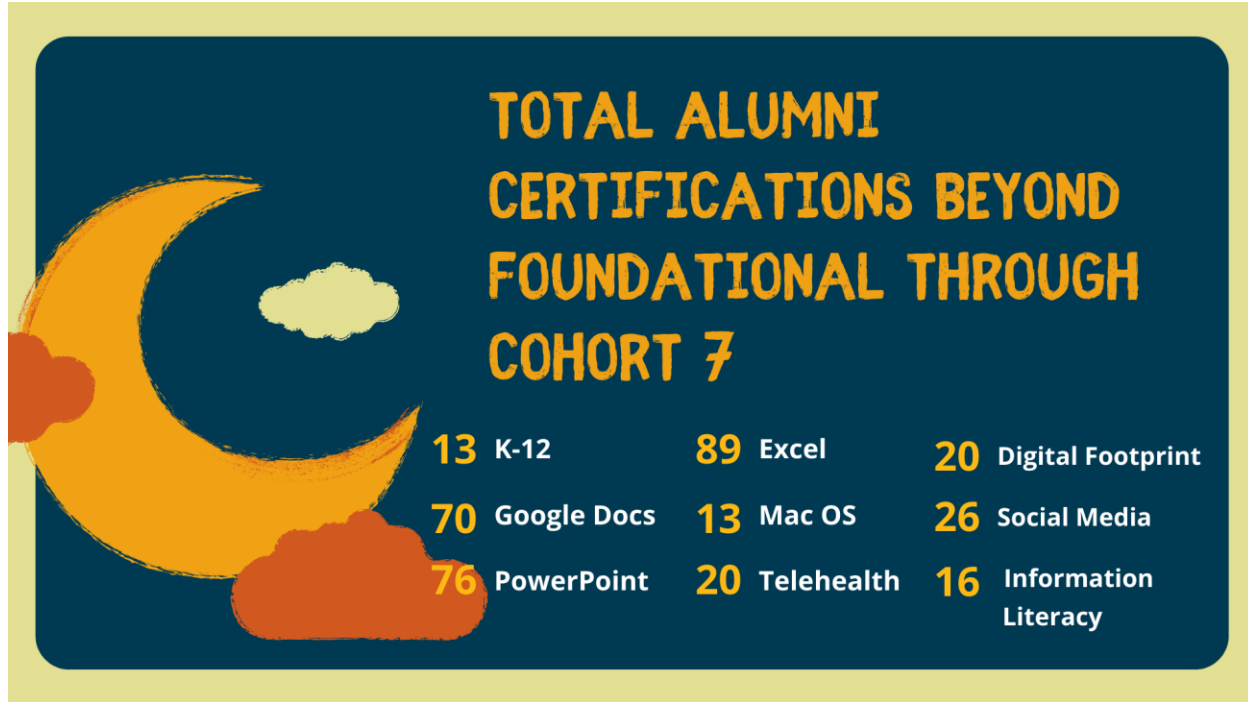
Vantage Aging is hiring! Check out our [Job Opportunities page](#) to view open positions and apply.



**LEARNERS PARTICIPATING
IN VANTAGE'S DIGITAL
INCLUSION PROGRAM**

9 Cohort 1	25 Cohort 5
16 Cohort 2	31 Cohort 6
21 Cohort 3	35 Cohort 7
19 Cohort 4	

The infographic features a dark blue background with a yellow-orange central panel. On the right side of the panel is a stylized black cat with large, glowing yellow eyes and a red nose. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font.



November Newsletter Teaser

November brings on a time to reflect on all that we are thankful for. We are so thankful to all of you for participating in the Digital Inclusion program. We are also very thankful for all of our veterans and the sacrifices they have made for us to be here today. Please look for our November newsletter to hear a story or two about Vantage Aging veterans and reflections of Thanksgiving.

***If you would like to share how Vantage Aging has added to your Thanksgiving, please reach out to Laura to be included in our next newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!

Reach out to your Digital Navigator or Contact Laura at lcourtwright@vantageaging.org with your ideas and interests for future Newsletter topics.

Vantage Aging

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