NEED TO KNOW NEWSLETTER

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October 2025

BECOME A DIGITAL DETECTIVE!

Artificial intelligence isn't just writing stories or creating funny memes anymore. It's working behind the scenes in almost every area ... including crime. Cybercriminals now use AI to cook up convincing scams, fake videos and even phony news.

That's where you come in. This month, we're putting you in the role of digital detective. Grab your magnifying glass and prepare to catch the clues that reveal an attacker with AI.

First case: Fake videos & images

Al videos and pictures might look perfect at first glance, but dig deeper and you'll find clues. Watch for weirdness — like shirts changing between shots or people vanishing in the background. Look at the details: extra fingers, misshapen teeth or jewelry that seems to float in space. If the shadows don't match or the physics feel wrong, you've cracked the case.

Second case: The Text Trap

Al can write polished messages that feel professional, but you can detect the deception: look for generic greetings like "Dear Customer," odd phrases that don't sound natural and unsolicited links. If an email is pushing you to click fast, that's your clue that something's wrong.



Deepfake audio is here, and it's eerily convincing. If a voice on the phone sounds just like your boss but demands you act carelessly, take a pause and listen carefully. Does the tone sound too robotic? Are there awkward pauses? Before you follow any instructions, confirm that it's a real call through another channel.

UMass

Boston

Fourth case: Deepfakes

A video call from the boss? This is where the investigation gets serious. Study the eyes: are they blinking naturally? Are the reflections in glasses and screens correct? Do cloth and hair move the way physics says they should? If not, you've just uncovered a top-tier fake.

