Cybersecurity and Data Protection: Threats, Trends, Awareness, and Prevention

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Illinois Association of County Officials

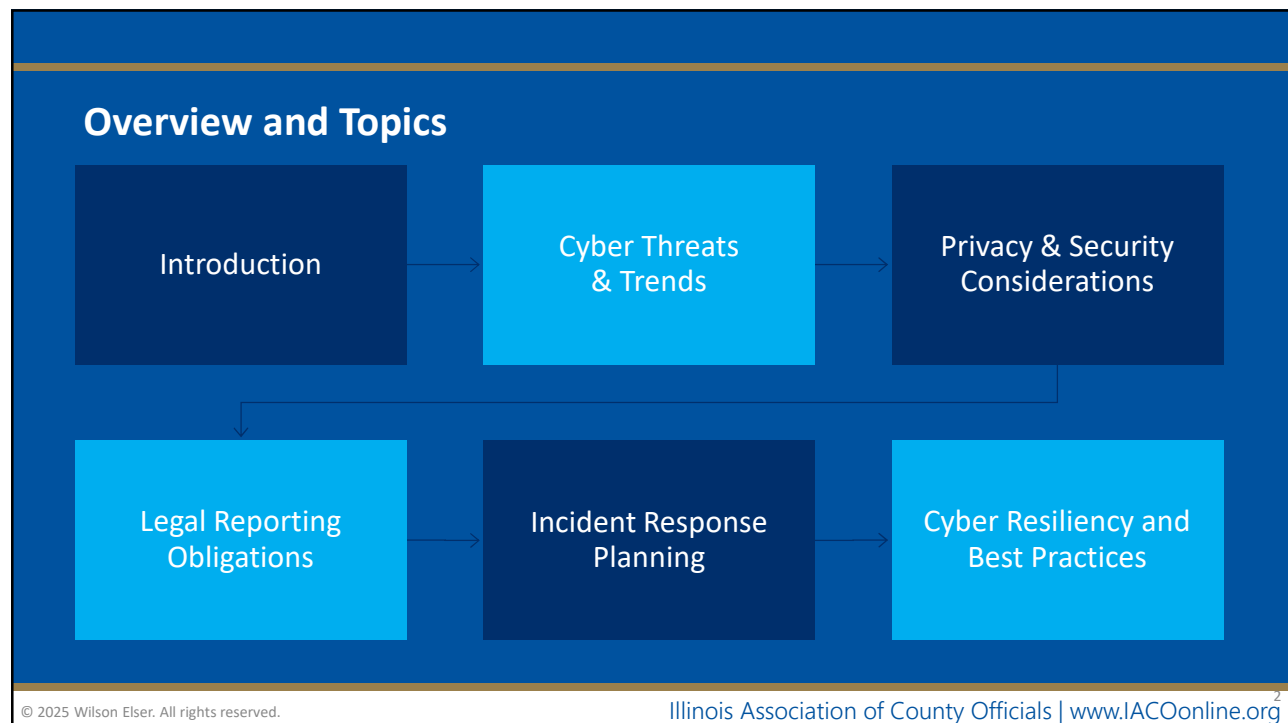www.IACOonline.org

1

Overview and Topics

Introduction → Cyber Threats & Trends → Privacy & Security Considerations

Legal Reporting Obligations → Incident Response Planning → Cyber Resiliency and Best Practices

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2

1

Introduction

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3

Introduction

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4

Cyber Threats & Trends

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Data Breach Statistics

Public Sector Data Breaches

Frequency	12,217 incidents, 1,085 with confirmed data disclosure
Top patterns	Miscellaneous Errors, System Intrusion and Social Engineering represent 78% of breaches
Threat actors	Internal (59%), External (41%) (breaches)
Actor motives	Financial (71%), Espionage (29%) (breaches)
Data compromised	Personal (72%), Internal (37%), Other (31%), Credentials (17%) (breaches)
What is the same?	System Intrusion and Social Engineering remain top attack patterns in this sector.

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6

3

Cyber Threats & Trends

Overview

Network Intrusions	Phishing/ Spear-phishing Campaigns	Human Error
Rogue Employee	Third-Party Risk	Generative AI

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7

Cyber Threats & Trends

Network Intrusions

Who? What? When? Where? How? Why?

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Cyber Threats & Trends

Phishing Attacks

Spam campaigns	Wire fraud
Targeted emails (spear-phishing)	Synching / downloading contents
Trusted source (boss, clients, customers, vendors)	Access to emails and/or Sharepoint files
AI-generated messages (more authentic)	Bypassing MFA
Malicious links and attachments	

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Cyber Threats & Trends

Human Error

Emailing sensitive data to the wrong recipient	Sharing login credentials/authorizing MFA when they shouldn't be
Sending data to personal (unsecure) device	Leaving "backdoor" open to network
Logging into network from public or other insecure forms of Wi-Fi	Inadvertently downloading malware from Internet (e.g., SEO poisoning)
Failing to shut down network access or email account of departed employee in a timely manner.	Bringing unauthorized data onto your network.

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10

Cyber Threats & Trends

Rogue Employees

Departing employee (theft of data)

Malicious insider (sabotage)

Inside agents working for external groups (corporate espionage and criminal)

Security evaders (creating workarounds to security policies and controls)

Disgruntled employees working together to cause harm

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Cyber Threats & Trends

Third Party/Supply Chain Vendors

- Vendor Due Diligence

- Audits, Questionnaires, & Security Risk Assessments

- Review of Vendor Contract Terms

- Backups and Contingency Plans

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12

Cyber Threats & Trends

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Threat actors leveraging AI in their attacks	AI can be used to hack passwords more quickly
Phishing attacks will be harder to detect	AI can be used to hack passwords more quickly
AI will automate and personalize social engineering attacks	Detecting "deepfakes" is becoming harder
Generative AI can create highly evasive malware	

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Privacy & Security Considerations

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Privacy & Security Considerations

Knowing What You Have

- Data Inventory

- System Mapping

- Physical Device Management
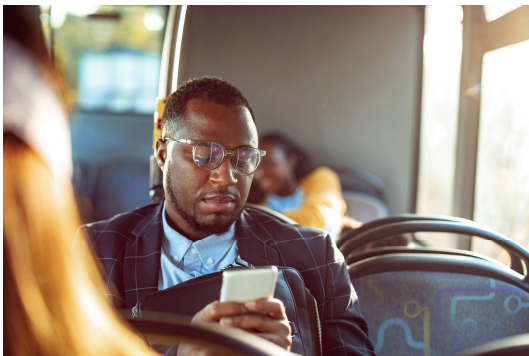
- Access Controls and Privileges

15

Privacy & Security Considerations

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policies

16

Privacy & Security Considerations

Remote Work

- Safety & Security

- Lost/Stolen Devices

- Public Wi-fi & Unsecured Remote Connections

- Zoom & Teams Considerations
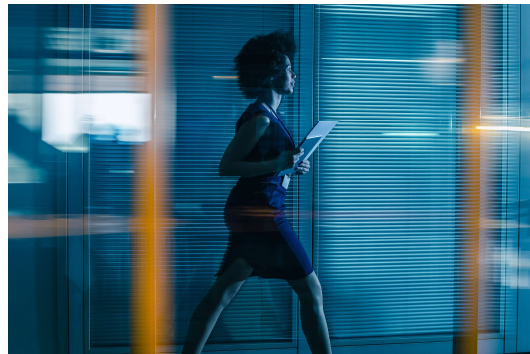
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17

17

Privacy & Security Considerations

Use of Non-Workplace Email Accounts & Shared Drives

- Efficiency vs. Security

- Where is The Data Going?

- Who Has Access?

- Violations of Laws, Regulations or Court Orders

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18

18

9

Privacy & Security Considerations

Sharing Information with External Stakeholders

- Stay Compliant with Technology Policies & Applicable Law

- Use Authorized Systems, Applications or Cloud-Based Software

- Be Wary of External Connections, Hardware & Software

- Vendor Impersonation & Social Engineering by 3rd Parties

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Privacy & Security Considerations

FOIA Requests

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Privacy & Security Considerations

Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS)

- Can Apply to Criminal and Noncriminal Justice Agencies and Contractors

- Incident Response Protocol and Procedures

- Required Training, MFA and Audits

- Civil and/or Criminal Penalties for Violations

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21

Privacy & Security Considerations

Sharing Information with External Stakeholders

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- Use Authorized Systems, Applications or Cloud-Based Software

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Legal Reporting Obligations

23

Legal Reporting Obligations

Statutory Considerations

- US State Laws

- Federal and State Regulations

- Industry Reporting Requirements

- International Privacy Laws

- Federal Agency Resources
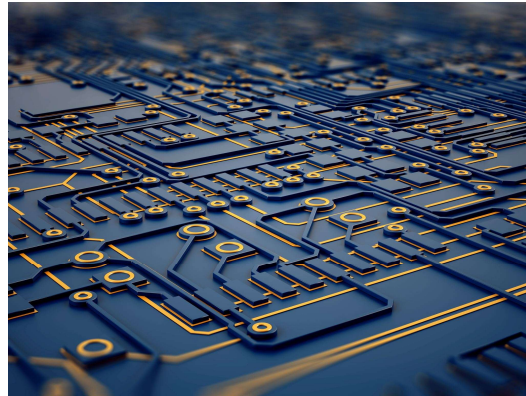
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Legal Reporting Obligations

Contract Clause Review

- Data Breach Notification Provisions

- Comprehensive Audit Triggers

- Confidentiality Clauses

- Liquidated Damages Clauses

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Incident Response Planning

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Incident Response Planning

Overview

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Building your incident response team	Identifying vulnerabilities and critical threats	Developing an incident response plan	Testing your incident response plan	Maintaining your incident response plan

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Incident Response Planning

Incident Response Team
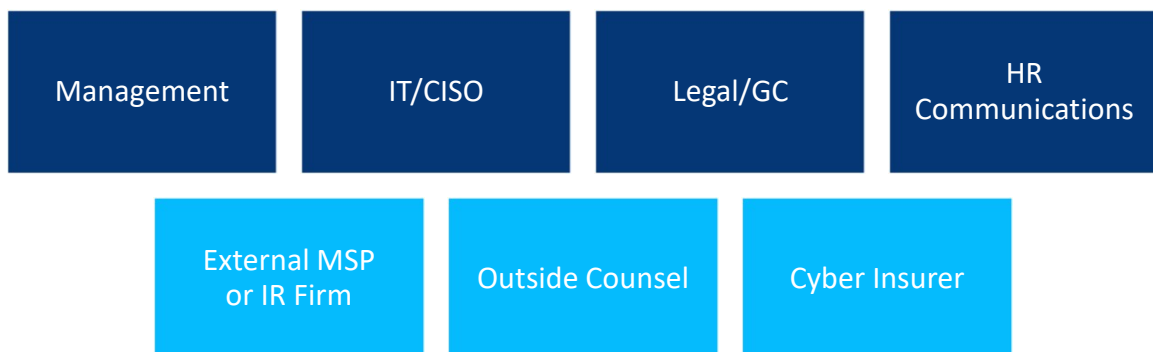
Management	IT/CISO	Legal/GC	HR Communications

External MSP or IR Firm	Outside Counsel	Cyber Insurer

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Incident Response Planning

Identifying Threats

Identify critical systems and servers	Potential threats and vulnerabilities	Data mapping (Crown Jewels) and Data Flows	Recovery priorities	Contingency plans	Backups

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Incident Response Planning

Components of the Plan

Detection of security event	Forensics investigation
Containment to stop and prevent the spread of infection	Communications
Collection of forensics artifacts	Post-incident assessment
Remediation and recovery	

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Incident Response Planning

Written Incident Response Plan

- What Information Is At Risk

- Who Is The Incident Response Team

- Playbook for Internal Action and Coordination

- Guidelines for External and Crisis Communications

- Notice to Affected Individuals, Regulators and Law Enforcement

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Incident Response Plan

Crisis Communications

1 Preparing a Crisis Communications Policy

2 Working with Outside Counsel on Communication Strategy

3 Updating & Revising a Communications Policy

4 Preparing Holding Statements

5 Communicating to Internal v. External Constituents

6 Implementing Secure Communication Methods for Stakeholders

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Incident Response Planning

Post Incident/Tabletop Exercise

- Honest Evaluation is Critical

- What Worked? What Did Not Work?

- Updating and Revising Plan As Needed

- Periodic Tabletop Exercises to Test Plan

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Cyber Resiliency & Best Practices

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Cyber Resiliency & Best Practices

Developing and Executing an Incident Response Plan

- Attacks Will Happen & They Will Succeed – Preparation Is Key

- Develop a Written Plan That Fits Your Organization

- Focus On Triage: What Is Important, What Gets You Back Online
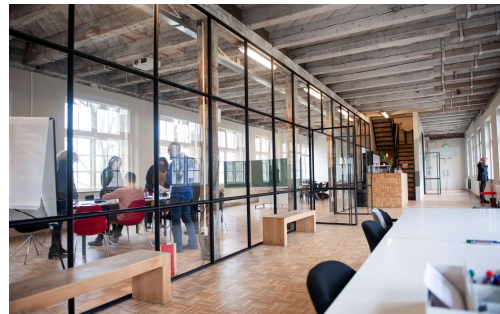
- Involve Outside Counsel & Incident Response Vendors

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Cyber Resiliency & Best Practices

Mitigating the Effects of Cyber Incidents

- Install Access and Communications Controls

- Implement "Least Privilege" for Users

- Assign Ownership of Response Projects

- Recognize the Signs of an Incident & React

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Cyber Resiliency & Best Practices

Accurate Policies, Procedures and Data Inventories

- Update the Incident Response Plan Regularly
- Track Physical & Digital Assets, Conduct Audits
- Maintain Accurate Data Inventories & Separate Current Back-Ups
- Implement and Enforce Data Retention Policies

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Cyber Resiliency & Best Practices

Foster Awareness and Resiliency though Continued Education and Training

- Continuous Training & Evaluation for All

- Password Standards & Cyber Safety Protocols

- Regular Cybersecurity Testing & Updates

- Training on Information & Data Classification

- Create a Culture of Cyber Awareness & Safety

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38

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39

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40