5 Cybersecurity Steps that Make a Big Impact

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1. Coordinate with your state partners and utilize state resources outside of your office
2. Utilize the many federal resources available to your office
3. Look to leverage private resources through a Vulnerability Disclosure Program
4. Don’t forget the basics – multifactor authentication, network segmentation, etc.
5. Coordinate and support local partners – Minnesota’s Cyber Navigator Program
Coordinate with State Partners

State IT, Fusion Centers, etc.

- State IT Services
- State Fusion Center
- State National Guard
- State Emergency Management
Utilize Federal Resources

- Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA)
- Cyber Resilience Review
- Phishing Campaign Assessment
- Weekly Cyber Hygiene Scan
- Malicious Domain Blocking and Reporting
- Web Application Scanning
- Federal Virtual Training Environment (FedVTE)
- Tabletop Exercise Package
- Community Webinars
- Information Sharing: MS/El-ISAC and Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) - CISA Cyber Portal
Look to leverage other resources

Consider a Vulnerability Disclosure Program

Vulnerability Disclosure Programs (VDPs) are a formalized method for external individuals to report vulnerabilities in systems.

Minnesota looking to create a VDP prior to the 2022 election.
Don’t Forget the Basics

Multifactor Authentication – Deployed on systems such as email, VPN access, and key systems accessed by outside users.

Network Segmentation – Key to minimizing the exposure risk in case of a breach or unauthorized access.
 Coordinate with Local Partners

87 Counties
- Traverse County ~ 3,200
- Hennepin County ~ 1,280,000

Minnesota Cyber Navigator Program
Cyber Navigator
Program Overview

• Background / Purpose

• Program Launch and Initial Efforts

• 2020 Election Year

• Lessons Learned (so far!)
Cyber Navigator
Background and Purpose

• Driver: 2016 Presidential Election cyber activity

• Key Enabler: HAVA resources

• Our Focus: Raise awareness
  • Cyber threats to elections-related systems
  • Resources available to reduce risk
Cyber Navigator
Program Launch and Initial Efforts

• Build the Network
  • Elections Leaders
  • IT Leaders
  • State agency and Federal partners

• Build the Relationships
  • Communicate regularly (up, down, sideways)
  • En masse, but also individually

• Provide Value
Cyber Navigator
2020 Election Year*

• Leveraged Relationships

• Real-time election event collaboration
  • System outage provided a useful test!

• Prepared for more cyber activity (but grateful for less)

(*Covid-19 and Physical Security aspects overshadowed cyber threats)
Cyber Navigator
Lessons Learned (so far!)

- Cyber Security is a team sport!
- Personal relationships matter
- Focus on the low-hanging fruit (there’s lots of it!)
- Help and resources are already there, but the right connections may not be…
- Stay flexible; each jurisdiction is unique!
- Any progress is valuable