Are You Ready for the Next Election?

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Sr. Director of the EI-ISAC

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Center for Internet Security (CIS)

• Community-driven non profit
  – More than 300 employees
• Responsible for CIS Controls and CIS Benchmarks
• Home to the MS-ISAC and EI-ISAC
• “Making the connected world a safer place”
What is the EI-ISAC?

• Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC)
• A voluntary and collaborative effort based on a strong partnership between the Center for Internet Security (CIS) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Who We Serve

+3,387 Members

• 50 State Election Offices
• +2,950 Local Election Offices
• 5 Territorial Election Offices
• 9 Election Associations
• 42 Supporting Members
• 1 Tribe
What is the Mission of the MS-ISAC?

To improve the overall cybersecurity posture of U.S, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (SLTT) government organizations through coordination, collaboration, cooperation and increased communication.
What is the Mission of the EI-ISAC?

To improve the overall cybersecurity posture of SLTT election offices, through collaboration and information sharing among members, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other federal partners, and private sector partners are the keys to success.
Initiatives and Resources

- Spotlight
- Alerts
- Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR)
- Malicious Domain Blocking and Reporting (MDBR)
- Security Operations Center (SOC)
- Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT)
- Malicious Code Analysis Platform (MCAP)
- Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP)
- Tabletop Exercises (TTX)
Communication for Election Officials

Content that put elections security topics into context for election officials
What’s Out There?

Malware
- Ransomware
- Virus
- Worm
- Trojan Horse
- Spyware

Phishing
- Spear Phishing
- Whaling
- Vishing

Thread Hijacking
Threat Highlight: Phishing
Q1 2022

• 70% of member-reported incidents were spam/phishing
• Initial access point to systems
• Common themes
  – “Invoices”
  – “Requested documents”
  – Unusual requests for information
  – Email address doesn’t match the name
• Malicious Code Analysis Platform (MCAP)
  – mcap@cisecurity.org
Threat Highlight: Thread Hijacking
Q1 2022

- Attackers compromise an account, steal legitimate correspondence
- Reply to that correspondence with a malicious document/link
- Look for the signs!
  - Original email dated from months ago
  - Email address doesn’t match the name
  - Content completely unrelated to original thread
  - Asking you to do something
Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR)

- Partnered with CrowdStrike to deliver endpoint protection services
- EDR quickly identifies and limits the spread of malicious activity
- **No charge** for election offices
- SOC monitors 24x7x365
- Added functionality for additional protection
Malicious Domain Blocking and Reporting (MDBR)

Security Focused DNS service:
Blocks malicious domain requests before a connection is even established!

Simple Implementation:
No new hardware or software required

Helps limit infections related to:
- Known Malware
- Ransomware
- Phishing
- Other cyber threats
Virtual Service Review

Meet with the EI-ISAC team to review your organization’s current status

- Review Services
- Update Contacts
- New Membership Offerings

Contact us at: elections@cisecurity.org
Misinformation Reporting

- Single point of contact for reporting **Mis- Dis- Mal-Information (MDM)**
  - EI-ISAC will contact social media platforms and follow up with you

- **What to Include:**
  - Screenshot
  - URL (if available)
  - Official Contact Info
  - Description of why it is misinformation

- **Email:** misinformation@cisecurity.org
The Challenge Ahead: Trust

Rampant MDM undermines confidence and trust in:

- Election technology
- Election officials, workers, facilities
- Election processes

Public misunderstanding of processes allows for MDM to grow and thrive

Isolated errors & confusion can be used to feed destructive narratives

#Trustedinfo2022

gov
Vulnerability Disclosure Program (VDP)

- VDP is a formalized process to receive, validate, remediate, and communicate vulnerability information on specific technology systems from security researchers.
  - Proven successful in many organizations from the largest tech companies to small governments.
  - Effective and efficient way for an organization to improve its security posture.
  - Allows the organization to leverage the wide-ranging talent of security researchers to improve security on its systems while giving the researcher an opportunity to practice and gain recognition for their skills.
Tabletop Exercises (TTX)

• Tabletop exercises are meant to help election offices consider different risk scenarios and prepare for potential cyber threats.

• TTX’s can be conducted:
  • In-person
  • Virtually
  • Online
  • Can be completed in as little as 15 minutes

• Each scenario will list the processes that are tested, threat actors that are identified, and the assets that are impacted.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Step</th>
<th>What We Can Promote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stay Connected</td>
<td>EI-ISAC membership &amp; engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train &amp; Communicate</td>
<td>Tabletop Exercises (TTX); EI-ISAC training/threat briefings; SANS; Communicate basic cyber hygiene steps (like strong passwords, email discipline, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ready Your Network &amp; Devices</td>
<td>Lock down your network and devices; MDBR, EDR (Albert – not always no-cost)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Own Your Environment</td>
<td>Combat Mis-/Dis-information; Take responsibility for cybersecurity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurture Your Cyber Strength</td>
<td>Essential Guide; NCSR; Controls/Benchmarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go Tell Your Story</td>
<td>Raise public confidence that you are “Cyber Strong”; email signatures; signing events; press releases</td>
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</table>
Protecting Against Potential Russian Cyber-Attacks
Protecting Against Potential Russian Cyber-Attacks
Guidance for Election Officials

- Join the EI-ISAC and/or MS-ISAC
- Join online at www.cisecurity.org
- No charge to join
Protecting Against Potential Russian Cyber-Attacks

Guidance for Election Officials

- Stop malicious internet activity with Malicious Domain Blocking and Reporting (MDBR)
- MDBR is provided at no charge to election offices
- Prevents users from connecting to known or suspected malicious sites
- Takes about 15 minutes to redirect domain name system resolution
- No other configuration or maintenance required
– Turn on multi-factor authentication (MFA) for any system that offers it.
– MFA is a feature that comes with many systems.
– Level of effort: as little as 10 minutes.
Protecting Against Potential Russian Cyber-Attacks
Guidance for Election Officials

– Make sure you have a recent vulnerability scan of externally facing IT assets.

– Install all possible patches and updates.

– Level of effort: minimal.
Protecting Against Potential Russian Cyber-Attacks
Guidance for Election Officials

- Enable logging on any device that is capable
- Configure a log collection system
- Helps put the puzzle together:
  - Who the adversary was
  - How they got in
  - How long were they in the system
  - What did they do while in the system
Protecting Against Potential Russian Cyber-Attacks
Guidance for Election Officials

- Develop or update an incident response (IR) plan.
- Ensure systems are properly backed up and backups are protected from ransomware attacks.
  - Endpoint security
Annual Meeting

- August 7-10
- Baltimore, Maryland
Who Do I Contact?

- **EI-ISAC Team:**
  - elections@cisecurity.org

- **EI-ISAC Registration**
  - https://learn.cisecurity.org/ei-isac-registration

- **Mis-Dis- Information**
  - misinformation@cisecurity.org

- **Marci Andino**
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Thank You!

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